

Mahdi: Rebels flexible on key issues

KHARTOUM (R) — Rebels waging war in south Sudan for the past four years were flexible on key demands during two rounds of peace talks with the government, Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Monday. He told parliament that representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had asked for the talks, the first known contacts with the government since July 1986. The two sides met in London last month and Mr. Mahdi said earlier talks were held in late November. He gave no details. He said rebel envoys conceded that a national committee should review a 1986 agreement between the SPLA and representatives of various political parties, because key parties were absent from the talks which produced the pact. The rebels had previously said the Koka Dam agreement, named for the town where it was negotiated, was the only basis for any peace talks. It called for the scrapping of Sharia imposed on Sudan in 1983. It also called for the lifting of a state of emergency in force since 1985 and the repeal of military pacts with Libya and Egypt. The SPLA has been fighting in the mainly non-Muslim south to overthrow the Khartoum government and end what it says is the political and economic dominance of the predominantly Muslim and Arabised north.

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Resistance fighters battle SLA

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance fighters battled militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in a South Lebanese village Monday and killed or wounded several of them, an Islamic Resistance statement said. The group, comprising Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters and other resistance groups, said the clash began when 15 SLA men tried to infiltrate into the village of Kfar Roumane on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone." It said guerrillas defended the village traded fire from heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades with the attackers for 45 minutes. Several of SLA men were killed or wounded, it said, but did not mention any guerrilla casualties. Security sources in the south said SLA gunners in nearby hills later bombarded Kfar Roumane, Jarjous, Arab Salim and Habboush outside the "security zone."

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Rifai meets Chamber of Industry delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday received Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan and members of the chamber's new board and reviewed with them the role of the private industrial sector in developing national industries as well as the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors to raise the standard of Jordanian industries. The Chamber of Industry delegation voiced appreciation for the efforts being exerted by the government to boost and enhance national industries.

Zimbabwean minister begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The transport minister of Zimbabwe arrived here Monday leading an official delegation on an official visit to Jordan during which he will discuss cooperation in the field of transport between Jordan and Zimbabwe. The minister was received upon arrival by Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

U.S. congressman arrives in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — U.S. Congressman Mel Levine arrived in Iraq from Jordan Monday to start a five-state Gulf tour and will be joined on Tuesday by fellow Democrat Robert Torricelli, a U.S. embassy spokesman said. The two members of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee will also visit Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Israel extends visa for Soviet delegation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel granted month-long visa extensions to visiting Soviet delegates but warned the Soviets would then be asked to leave unless Moscow opened its doors to an Israeli delegation, government officials said Monday. The tough talk reflected an apparent deterioration in Israeli-Soviet relations, which were severed in 1967 but warmed in the months prior to the Soviet-American summit in Washington in December. The Israelis made their conditions known in a meeting with Soviet delegation head Georgi Martynov Sunday, the same day Israeli officials revealed the arrest of a businessman suspected of spying for the Soviets (See page 2).

Benjedid in Libya

BEIRUT (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid arrived in Libya on Monday, after a 24-hour visit to Tunisia, and was met by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. JANA said Colonel Qadhafi immediately took Mr. Benjedid on a tour to his house, damaged during a U.S. air raid on Tripoli in April 1985.

New Czech leader visits Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met new Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Milos Jakes Monday for talks on their countries' domestic and foreign policies, TASS news agency said. TASS said the meeting, soon after Mr. Jakes arrived for his first visit to the Soviet Union since his surprise appointment last month, passed in an atmosphere of "cordiality."

INSIDE

- Libyan diplomat killed in Kampala blast, page 2
- Parliament reviews key penal code issues today, page 3
- Ansar II — the infamous Israeli detention camp, page 4
- The wedding of Galilee — a critical look, page 5
- Soviet Union to attend Seoul Olympics, page 6
- U.N. says world economy is precarious, page 7
- Moscow could begin Afghan pullout in May, page 8

'Israel using deadly tear-gas'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat accused Israel Monday of using potentially deadly U.S.-made tear-gas against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Our people in the Palestinian camps found some unexploded tear-gas bombs each weighing 15 kilograms, thrown by Israeli helicopters and causing suffocation, marked 'Made in USA-1988'," he told reporters at the Baghdad headquarters of the PLO.

Mr. Arafat said Israeli helicopters dropped up to 300 of the bombs on the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip alone, causing dozens of casualties.

In the Gaza Strip, relatives of a 35-year-old woman said on Saturday she died in labour after a tear-gas bomb exploded and suffocated her. An Israeli army spokesman contended that the report was unfounded.

Witnesses in the Gaza Strip said last week troops were using a new type of gas which caused suffocation.

"One of these shells did not explode when it was fired on Sunday in Gaza and it was found that it was 'Made in USA' with date of manufacturing inscribed on it and it was made in 1988, meaning that it was newly dispatched to the Israelis," Mr. Arafat said in Baghdad Monday.

Mr. Arafat said about 67,000 Israeli troops had moved into the occupied territories since anti-Israeli protests erupted there more than a month ago.

He said dozens of tanks and armoured cars were patrolling the town of Isawiya, near Jerusalem, on Monday and were firing at demonstrators.

Tanks were also used on Monday in the town of Beit-Al-Ma'a near Nabulus where residents chanted anti-Israeli slogans, he said.

Mr. Arafat disclosed that he had asked the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to send food and other necessities to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza even if that required the diversion of goods allocated to Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Mr. Arafat said the PLO's higher Military Council, comprising representatives of all Palestinian armed resistance movements, met in Baghdad on Monday to discuss "the great uprising of the Palestinian people."

"The meeting will discuss possible measures by the PLO after Israel's use of tanks and helicopter gunships in an abortive attempt to break the uprising," he said.

Mr. Arafat dismissed a proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday to upgrade conditions in Palestinian refugee camps.

"We tell this butcher... that our people do not need his housing schemes... they demand that he and his settlers leave our homeland," he said.

Bassam Abu Sherif, an Arafat spokesman, told reporters the Israeli military commander in the Gaza Strip had restricted the supply of drinking water in the area. "The war of thirst has begun," he said.

Shamir said in an interview on French Television that he wanted to revamp the refugee camps, suffering from what he described as terrible conditions.

He also said he was ready to talk about "autonomy" for the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, saying a five-year transition period of "self-government" in the territories was the only solution offering hope of peace.

"We believe that if there was peaceful coexistence for five years there would be a different climate and a mutual trust, and that this would help negotiations on an acceptable solution for all," Shamir said.

Abu Qoura calls for probe into gas bombs, page 3

Israeli soldiers claim another Palestinian life in Gaza

Settlers open fire on Arab protesters; one killed, another injured

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two prominent Jewish settlers shot and killed a Palestinian boy and wounded at least another in the occupied West Bank Monday when they opened fire on about 30 Arab protesters and Israeli soldiers killed another Palestinian in the Gaza Strip.

It was the first officially confirmed involvement of Jewish settlers in the killing of Palestinians in the occupied territories and appeared to signal a broadening of the cycle of violence that began Dec. 8.

The army said the settlers opened fire on the Arabs after their car was stoned outside the Palestinian Beitin village in the West Bank. But 15-year-old Ahmad Motti Nabham and other Arab witnesses told AP the protesters did not throw stones and the settlers opened fire after their car was blocked by a burning tyre.

Villagers said the two settlers got out of their car and chased the protesters 200 metres into the village before opening fire with M-16 rifles.

There were numerous protests in both occupied areas with curfews imposed on several refugee camps. But the Beitin shooting was the only reported case Monday of people hit by gunfire.

The army's head of central command, Major-General Amram Mitzna, contended that the settlers only opened fire after they were ambushed by stone-



Palestinian boys stone Israeli soldiers in Gaza

Mellor calls on Israel to accept peace conference

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Office Minister David Mellor called on Monday for Israel to accept an international conference on Middle East peace and said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should renounce violence.

"The status quo is unsustainable. New thinking is required," he wrote in the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Mr. Mellor returned last week from a visit to Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip, where he angered the Israeli government by publicly berating an army colonel in a Palestinian refugee camp and calling conditions there inhumane.

"The Israelis must accept that an international conference offers the only way out of the cycle of violence, repression and moral degradation," Mr. Mellor wrote.

"The Palestinians, too, must demonstrate their interest in peace."

Israel's coalition government is split over the issue of a conference. Labour Foreign Minister Shimon Peres supports U.N.-sponsored talks but right-wing Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir says they would force Israel to make "territorial concessions."

Both leaders reject any negotiations with the PLO.

"Nothing in present circumstances could make a greater contribution than unambiguous renunciation of violence by the PLO, in deed as well as in word, and acceptance by the PLO of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for a conference," Mr. Mellor wrote.

Reporting on the ongoing Palestinian protests in the occupied territories, Mr. Mellor wrote: "To attribute these disturbances to external agitation is to evade the issue. They reflect a deep despair and patriotism among ordinary Palestinians which cannot be maintained by inexperienced young soldiers ill-equipped for their task."

Mr. Mellor said he had heard of "beatings of the innocent, forced confessions, collective punishments and deportations."

He said the 20-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza risked becoming "a bleeding wound for Israel as Afghanistan is for the Russians."

Fundamentalists urge Egypt to cut Israel ties

CAIRO (AP) — Muslim fundamentalists Monday renewed their call for Egypt to break diplomatic relations with Israel over the violence in the occupied Arab territories and said only a unified Islamic stand can solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We call for the return of Egypt's ambassador to Israel and dismissal of the Israeli delegation in Egypt," said Sheikh Hafez Salama.

"We call on all Arab leaders to join in a unified stand against the states supporting Israel, headed by the United States and the Soviet Union."

The rally of dissident young lawyers marked only the second public appearance in almost three years for Sheikh Salama, an out-

Rabah Hussein Ghanam was shot in the back while Ziad Abdul Jalid, 19, was wounded in both feet by gunfire, the witnesses said. An AP reporter saw blood splattered on the dirt road where witnesses said Ghanam was shot.

Lying wrapped in blankets on a mat inside his cramped three-room house, Ghanam's 77-year-old father, Hussein Mahmoud Ghanam, grieved his eldest son's death. "Put me with my child in the grave. Give me a knife to kill myself," the weeping father said as his only other son, a 12-year-old, looked on aghast.

Many of the 65,000 Jewish settlers who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip carry weapons.

(Continued on page 3)

Mubarak, Sheikh Jaber discuss Egypt-Kuwait defence cooperation

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak conferred Monday with the leadership of Kuwait, the country closest to the Iran-Iraq war front, as he pursued a Gulf tour designed to bolster Arab defences against Iranian threats.

Mr. Mubarak flew in from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he voiced support for Arab efforts to initiate a dialogue with Iran.

"Any effort by an Arab state or other to mediate to end the bloodshed in the Gulf is an act we bless," he told a news conference after talks with U.A.E. President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, a leading advocate of dialogue rather than confrontation with Iran.

Mr. Mubarak began his Gulf visit Saturday in Saudi Arabia. From Kuwait, he is to proceed to

Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. The six states are grouped in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Diplomats said Mr. Mubarak discussed ways of meeting Iranian threats to Kuwait with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Iran fired at least seven Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at Kuwait last year. The latest, in December, hit a decoy barge near Kuwait's main sea oil export terminal.

Kuwait has put 11 of its tankers under the U.S. flag to obtain U.S. navy protection on their voyages through the Gulf.

Egypt, for whom Mr. Mubarak's tour marks a return to the Arab fold after eight years of isolation caused by its treaty with Israel, has pledged solidarity with the GCC against Iranian threats.

"Our enemies are trying to defeat us and the war is still going on near us. Egypt has a big role to play under these circumstances," Kuwait's minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, told reporters before Mr. Mubarak's arrival.

Mr. Mubarak is also seeking a united Arab stand on the proposed Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices before a planned trip to Washington later this month.

"He wants to go there and tell them 'we Arabs think' and not just Egypt," said one source accompanying the Egyptian leader.

Mr. Mubarak told the news conference in the UAE: "We should sit and agree on a joint stand in the face of Israel in order to end the deadlock in the Palestinian problem."

Iraqi raids shatter lull in 'tanker war'

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq shattered a fragile 10-day lull in the Gulf shipping war as its jets mounted new raids on Iranian oil tankers, dampening hopes of efforts to defuse tension in the region.

Gulf-based shipping sources said an Iraqi jet fired an Exocet missile into the fully-laden 280,476-tonne supertanker Khark 3 on Sunday night minutes after it had weighed anchor at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal at the head of the waterway.

Two hours earlier, another Iraqi jet launched a missile into what was thought to be an already damaged tanker now moored empty at Kharg Island as a decoy, the sources said.

Western diplomats said Iraq's resumption of attacks on Iran's oil lifeline cast a pall over hopes that Arab states could succeed where the United Nations has so far failed and negotiate an end to the seven-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

"It is only a matter of time

Soviets 'will support Iran arms ban if needed'

DUBAI (AP) — A senior Soviet official Monday reiterated Moscow's views that talk of an arms embargo against Iran for failing to head ceasefire calls is premature.

"I must make clear the U.N. secretary-general's efforts (for peace) have not been exhausted," Karen Brutents, an envoy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, told a news conference.

"They are now entering a new phase, new efforts."

Mr. Brutents said he expected a surge of diplomatic attempts at the United Nations in the very near future to help Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the seven-year-old war.

"Progress can now come very quickly or it can take a little longer," said Mr. Brutents, adding "but I want to make it

(Continued on page 3)



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Libyan diplomat dies after Kampala blast

KAMPALA (R) — A Libyan diplomat was fatally injured and five people including the French cultural attache were hurt when a grenade or small bomb exploded on Monday in the building housing their embassies, Ugandan police said.

Libyan Administrative Attache Ayad Ahmed died on the way to hospital after the explosion severed his leg, police and colleagues said.

French Cultural Attache Jean-Daniel Neveu received hospital treatment for a shrapnel wound in the chest but he was not seriously hurt, embassy sources said.

The other casualties were a Ugandan secretary at the Libyan embassy, a lift operator and two employees of an agricultural company, police added.

The lift operator left hospital after treatment for facial bruises but the condition of the others was not known, they said.

The explosion took place at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) at embassy house, an office block housing the French, Libyan, Sudanese and West German embassies to Uganda.

Eyewitnesses said the victims were waiting to get into the lift when an unidentified man hurled the explosive device into the hallway.

Police and army sealed off the building in the city centre and began a thorough search in the belief that the attacker was still on the premises, police sources said.

They arrested one man who was taking photographs of the bloodstained hallway and who said he was working for a newspaper, eyewitnesses said.

No organisation immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but several conservative rebel groups have repeatedly criticised the Ugandan government's friendship with Tripoli.

Kampala was hit by a series of grenade attacks last September which police sources attributed to attempts by rebel guerrillas to infiltrate the capital.

President Yoweri Museveni, who is at present in Cuba on a six-day official visit, said at the time the rebels were trying to disrupt a December meeting of heads of state.

Cmdr. David Kaboyo, who heads the security team investigating the bombing, said the arrested man was a Ugandan who claimed to be a journalist working for a private firm that planned soon to launch a new newspaper. Kaboyo would not further identify him.

"He was at the scene by the time of the incident and he had taken some snaps," said Cmdr. Kaboyo. "I wonder what he had come to do at the place, unless he had earlier been tipped off?"

Cmdr. Kaboyo said the assailant was on the second floor of the nine-story building and tossed a grenade down the stairs as the Libyan attache began to climb the stairs.

"The grenade fell in front of the Libyan diplomat," said Cmdr. Kaboyo. "The French diplomat, who was coming after him, was injured together with three Ugandans."

W. Berlin disco blast suspect arrested

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Police have arrested a 27-year-old woman suspected in the April 1986 attack on a West Berlin discotheque that led the United States to retaliate by bombing two Libyan cities, a state government official said Monday.

Meanwhile, a West Berlin Justice Department spokesman said that a convicted Arab gunman linked to the case had visited Libya.

But Volker Kaehne declined to specify what role, if any, the North African nation led by Col. Muammar Qadhafi played in the La Belle Disco bombing.

Radio Schleswig-Holstein said that Christina Gabriele Endrick, who was born in West Berlin, was arrested early Monday along with an unidentified man in the northern port city of Luebeck.

Monika Stenkat, spokeswoman for the Schleswig-Holstein State Interior Ministry, confirmed that Mrs. Endrick had been arrested.

"Yes, she was arrested during the night," Mrs. Stenkat told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

A Luebeck police spokesman, who declined to give his name when contacted by telephone, told the AP all queries in the case should be directed to Justice Department spokesman Kaehne in West Berlin.

Mr. Kaehne, asked to comment on the reported arrest, told the AP in a telephone interview: "Naturally, we know what is taking place. But we'll need some time before we can comment."

Mr. Kaehne had said Sunday that Mrs. Endrick was being "urgently sought" in the case.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kaehne repeated allegations that Mrs. Endrick was working with two convicted Palestinians.

"As noted from a previous trial, one of them, Ahmad Nawaf Hasi, was at times in Libya," Mr. Kaehne said. He declined, despite repeated questions, to say if West Berlin officials had determined whether there was a direct Libyan connection to the La Belle Disco bombing.

Spokesman Robert Heath of the U.S. embassy in Bonn declined comment on whether new developments in the case had any effect on the U.S. insistence that Libya was behind the La Belle Disco bombing.

"It's all too new. We don't have anything on that," Mr. Heath told the AP in a telephone interview.

The April 5, 1986, blast at the crowded La Belle Discotheque killed two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman and injured 229 people.

"On the basis of seized documents and according to eyewitness accounts of her behaviour before the explosion, she is strongly suspected of bringing the explosives into the club and leaving the explosives there," Mr. Kaehne told reporters.

Arab teen-agers rule streets in Gaza Strip towns

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

KHAN YUNIS, Occupied Gaza Strip — Behind a roadblock of tree branches, boulders and rusting metal cans, teen-agers and a smattering of adults spent the day tending the burning tires and keeping traffic off the street.

"We want to kick the army off our land," said Alaa, a 10-year-old boy who was thrust forward by older youths to talk with a reporter.

"We will be victorious. We are ready to die to see the army get out of here," said Nidal, 13, wearing blue jeans and a gray sweater. His classmate, Abdul Aziz, stood by his side, clutching a stone in his left hand.

The bravado was a product of the success the teen-agers have had in closing shops and keeping the adults from their jobs in Israel, where about 50,000 Gazans work.

Israel sent armoured vehicles and extra troops into the Gaza Strip and imposed curfews on three nearby refugee camps.

But it was the Palestinian teen-agers who ruled the streets in Khan Yunis, Gaza City and Rafah on the Egyptian border.

The teen-agers, who declined to give their full names for fear of arrest on riot-related charges, were agitated by an army helicopter that circled overhead.

"See, see, they are dropping tear gas bombs," said Abdul Aziz as a white streak of smoke cut across the blue sky. It appeared to be aimed at columns of black smoke several streets away.

"Look at this," said the owner of a cigarette stand, pointing to broken glass on his store front. He claimed soldiers had vandalised his shop. He refused to give his name.

"Jesh, jesh," (Arabic for army) shouted some youths, warning colleagues that an army patrol was headed their way. The teen-agers rushed off to man the barricade.

Khan Yunis has been a focus of violence since authorities announced their intention to deport Hassan Abu Shakra, a 37-year-old prayer leader at the main mosque in Israel, which is linked to Jihad Islam (Islamic holy war), the organisation behind the weekend strike that halted all traffic and business.

A protest march was held last week, touching off violence in which one 25-year-old Palestinian

was killed by army gunfire. A former policeman who identified himself as Ahmad said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had "only inflamed the situation" with tough statements and threats of force.

The scene was much the same in Gaza City, where nearly every street had multiple barricades, some made of discarded stoves, old refrigerators and burned-out skeletons of junked cars.

A youth dashed from behind a barricade, a sweater wrapped across his face, concealing all but the eyes. He hurled a chunk of cement, which went pin-wheeling toward a windshield. It slammed into the hood, tearing off a strip of chrome.

Teen-agers constructed a huge bonfire on the main shopping thoroughfare of Omar Al Mukhtar Street at nightfall Sunday. Crossing the barricade had to be negotiated with men in their early 20s.

They warned against taking any pictures, fearing photos would fall into the hands of police and be used to prosecute them.

Told by the older youths that a journalist was in the area, the crowd of about 20 teen-agers

burst into a chant: "In spirit, in blood, we sacrifice for you, oh Palestine."

On a nearby street an hour earlier, children aged 5 to 7 dragged a burning heap of trash into the street.

Not far away, Israeli soldiers with purple berets stood guard over other teen-agers who they had ordered to extinguish burning tires and clear away debris.

A leaflet in the form of the red, white, black and green Palestinian flag, signed "Nationalist Forces," was left on downtown street corners. It demanded Palestinian self-government and appealed for an end to deportations and freedom for the 1,100 Arabs held in Israeli jails as a result of the recent disturbances.

At nightfall, soldiers fired warning shots, staccato bursts from automatic rifles that reverberated through the shuttered alleyways of Gaza City, a city of 150,000 about 80 kilometers south of Tel Aviv.

The only other sound was the sunset call to prayer, taken up by one mosque and then another until all the streets echoed with the refrain: There is no God but one God... God is Great.

Israel detains 2 Arab journalists without trial

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities arrested two Palestinian journalists in East Jerusalem on Monday and ordered them held without trial for six months, security sources and relatives said.

They identified them as Saman Khouri, 39, a part-time correspondent in the Israeli-occupied West Bank for the French news agency Agence France-Presse, and freelance Hani Issawi.

Khouri's American wife told Reuters: "The police came to our house at about midnight, searched the premises, refused to

speak to our lawyer on the telephone and took Saman away."

Palestinian sources said both men had been detained in the past in connection with disturbances. Issawi served a long prison sentence for resistance activities and Khouri was held for short periods.

On Sunday the death toll rose to 31 as protests against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip went into a second month. The government sent more troops into the Gaza Strip as part of its "iron fist" policy to stamp out the protests.

France 'will not change stance' on Iranian expulsions

PARIS (AP) — Premier Jacques Chirac said Monday that France would not reverse its position on the expulsion of anti-Khomeini Iranians despite a 35-day hunger strike by the Iranians, relatives and sympathisers in Paris, Washington, London and Libreville.

Six men and three women, all relatives of the 14 Iranian dissidents expelled from France to Gabon on Dec. 8, were hospital-

ised Sunday. They had been conducting their hunger strike in front of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' office here.

So far, 20 of the 40 Paris strikers have been treated in the hospital, according to the People's Mujahadeen of Iran.

The Chirac government says the 14 Iranians and three Turkish Kurds were expelled because they were a threat to public order.

Raimond arrives in Ankara

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond arrived Monday for a 24-hour official visit, the first trip by a French foreign minister here in 13 years.

Mr. Raimond was welcomed at Esenboga Airport by his Turkish counterpart, Mesut Yilmaz. The two ministers will have discussions on bilateral issues including economic, cultural and

political matters. Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu announced.

The talks will also focus on international matters such as developments in nuclear disarmament, the Gulf war and Middle East problems, Mr. Batu added. Mr. Raimond will meet with Premier Turgut Ozal on Tuesday. President Kenan Evren will also receive him before his departure.

Israeli held on suspicion of spying for Soviets

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli businessman with links to high-level politicians and army officials has been arrested on suspicion of spying for the Soviet Union, his lawyer and Israeli Television said Sunday.

Shabtai Kalmanovich, 46, who immigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel in 1971, was arrested by the Israeli secret service Dec. 23, said his lawyer, Amnon Zichroni.

Zichroni said judicial officials barred him from releasing further details about the case. Israel Television said no formal charges have been filed.

Israel Television described Kalmanovich as an international businessman who "employs hundreds of people throughout the world, among them former Israeli ministers and reserve officers."

"Among his friends were members of the Knesset (the Israeli parliament), high-ranking politicians and senior army reserve officers," the report said. It did not provide names.

After immigrating to Israel, Kalmanovich served in the army and briefly worked as an aide to Israeli legislator Shmuel Flatto-Sharon, Zichroni said.

The television report said that "since the first massive wave of immigration from the Soviet Union, Israeli security services feared that the Soviets would plant agents who will... serve in the army and supply the Soviet Union with information for many years to come."

Ships take wartime steps in Gulf to protect crew

By Mariam Al Khalifa
Reuters

DUBAI — Sailing in total silence, without navigation lights or radar, massive tankers sneak down the Gulf, crewmen crouched behind sandbags or blacked-out portholes, in a deadly war of wits with marauding planes and gunships.

Amid the tension, tauter in some stretches of the 550-mile waterway than others, the seamen know they can do little to blunt the impact of an Iraqi-fired Exocet missile or a determined Iranian gunboat assault.

"There's not much you can do to stop an Exocet coming in at 900 mph (1400 kph)," one shipping source said.

But they try — especially those on Iran's oil export shuttle route — by using the term "Exocet alley" where they know ships are hit with unnerving fre-

quency.

"I haven't been on a convoy yet where one ship hasn't been hit," said one British officer who wanted to remain anonymous.

"You jump around from ship to ship — when one gets banged up you go on to the next."

Moving off at night in complete secrecy, the ships sail in convoys of five or six, without navigation lights or radar. Crewmen are told only two hours before departure that they are sailing.

Besides painting out portholes, building protective sandbag walls on deck, the crews drape anti-radar netting over accommodation quarters to soften the sharp outlines sought by an Exocet's radar homing mechanism.

Engine rooms, the most vulnerable part of the ship's anatomy, are unmanned and bunker tanks each side are filled with water to reduce chances of fire,

one veteran explained.

The sailors huddle on the side of the ship furthest from where the Iraqi missiles are expected to hit, sitting starboard when going north and port heading south.

Some chartered ships sport large booms with steel nets protruding on each side in the hope that an Exocet — which explodes twice, on impact and shortly after — will not detonate inside the ship.

"Each company has different ideas of how to protect their ships," a British crewman said.

"But a lot depends on the skill of the master. Some take the supertankers so close to the Iranian coast it's just not true — you have to use guile to get up there."

He said ships owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) normally get the safest spot in the middle of the convoys.

Tugboats join inbound convoys at Ras Al Mutaf Island in the central Gulf where tankers congregate ahead of the prime 150-mile danger zone known as "Exocet alley."

Iranian-piloted F-14 Tomcats are supposed to give airborne protection on the homestretch to the country's northern Gulf Kharg Island oil terminal but there was little evidence of their effectiveness, an Indian officer said.

Once at Kharg, trouble is far from over — the terminal is within easy reach of Iraqi planes and bears the scars of dozens of attacks.

"All the automatic valves at Kharg are completely knackered. They've replaced the metal pipes with rubber hoses and the oil farm has to operate manually when ships take on fuel," the seaman said.

Anti-aircraft guns just opposite Kharg fire at marauding Iraqi warplanes but often miss, with

shells hitting the waiting ships, he commented.

"The planes come in low, about 200 feet up and drop bombs with parachutes to slow them down," he said.

The effectiveness of Iraqi operations against the shuttle taking vital oil exports to safer waters in the southern Gulf for customer collection, is evidenced in the figures.

Shipping sources say Iraq hit 26 out of Iran's 39-strong shuttle fleet during 1987, with five or six total write-offs. Some vessels have been hit time and time again.

The attacks take their human toll too.

Strikes on both sides — on Iranian tankers and on ships serving supporters of Iraq — killed at least 71 merchant sailors last year.

Pay rates treble normal salaries are insufficient to keep some seamen on the shuttle run.

"You harden up pretty fast. But after about three months, you can't sleep," one seaman said.

Risks are not as high on the Arab side of the waterway but Iranian gunboats are a real enough threat.

Two ships hit last December, the 85,129-tonne Singaporean products carrier Norman Atlantic and the 102,089-tonne Greek tanker Adriane, later sank.

Shipping sources said the damage to those two vessels and another, the 232,164-tonne Cypriot supertanker Pivot, indicated Iran had begun using new incendiary weapons.

There were no casualties in any of those attacks.

Shipping sources say Iranian warships have now begun firing dozens of rounds of 23-mm bullets at vessels, leaving holes which are less conspicuous but equally effective.

Saudi prince predicts end of Gulf war this year

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah said in an interview published on Monday that Iran was unable to invade Iraq's Gulf Arab allies and he thought the Iran-Iraq war would end this year.

"Iran is not capable of invading any Gulf country... and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are able to defend themselves," Crown Prince Abdullah said.

Abdullah said the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassah.

The Saudi Prince, who is in Morocco on a private visit, was responding to a question from the daily on whether Iran is able militarily to invade Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Em-

irates (UAE).

Prince Abdullah said Iran was still refusing to accept a peaceful settlement of the seven-year-long Gulf war, and this had left it with no friends "as there are no friends for a state that refuses peace."

And lack of friends meant Iran could not invade any of the GCC states, he added.

Prince Abdullah said he believed that the current year would witness an end to the Iraq-Iran war and said: "I think the war has neared its end... If it does not formally end in 1988, then it will end for all practical purposes."

"All indications show the war is on its way to be frozen and extinguished."

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

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15:35 Programme review	22:00 News Summary
15:40 Children's programmes	22:05 Evening Show Continued
15:50 World Space Spirit Day	22:10 News Summary
17:20 In Search of the Past	22:15 Evening Show Continued
17:30 Local programme	22:40 Close Down
18:15 Basketball	
18:15 Message from Oman	BBC WORLD SERVICE
19:15 Local programme	639, 720, 1321 KHz
19:45 Programme review and varieties	
20:30 News in Arabic	06:00-06:30 First Recordings of
20:35 Arabic Series	British Newsbulletins 06:45 Reflec-
21:30 Cultural programme	tions 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World
22:00 Varieties programme	News 07:49 24 Hours News Summary
23:00 News summary in Arabic	07:30 Nature Notebook 07:45 Roun-
23:10 Programme contd.	ding of the Week 08:00 Newsbullet 08:30
	Royal Salad 09:00 World News 09:24
	Hours: News Summary 09:30 Pressure
	Points 09:45 Newsbullet U.K. 10:00
	World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15
	Health Matters 10:30 The Mysterious
	Art of Conductor 11:00 World News
	11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Good
	Books 11:30 Financial News: Sports
	Roundup 11:45 A Mozart Miscellany
	12:00 News Summary: Discovery 12:25
	A Letter from Scotland 12:30 Citizens
	13:00 World News 13:09 News About
	Britain 13:15 Wavetrade 13:25 Book
	Choice 13:30 Drama Series 14:00
	Newsbullet 14:15 Multitrack 1:1
	Top 20 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00
	World News 15:09 24 Hours: News
	Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45
	Recording of the Week 16:00 Outlook:
	5-Minute News 16:45 First Recordings
	of British Symphonies 17:00 Radio
	4sworld 17:09 Commentary 17:15
	Commentary of Faith 17:45 Lines of
	Swing 18:00 World News 18:09 A
	Letter from Scotland 18:15 Citizens
	18:30 Performing Early Music 19:09
	Commentary 19:15 Drama Series 19:30
	World News 19:39 The Roman Theatre
	of Italy 19:40 Book Choice
	19:50 Sports Round-up 20:00 News-
	bullet 20:05

Parliament to discuss penal code revisions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a session today to discuss legislation including major amendments to Jordan's 1960 Penal Code, whereby stringent punishments were introduced on crimes such as rape, adultery, fraud and forgery without credit.

Modifications to the 28-year-old penal code were prompted by an alarming increase in these crimes and the need to have lighter punishments to go along with efforts exerted by the concerned public departments.

According to observers, penalties on these violations as provided for in the 1960 law were not compatible with the gravity of the crimes committed and the accelerating number of offenders.

According to these amendments, anyone who rapes a girl under 15 years of age would be executed. Others who rape women through the use of force, threat or cheating would be sentenced to a minimum of 10 years imprisonment with hard labour. The same sentence would apply

to anyone who rapes a girl or woman who cannot defend herself because of physical disability, psychological instability or physical weakness.

Acts of incest among parents and their children, brothers and sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters, in-laws, and aunts and uncles would receive a minimum of five years imprisonment with temporary hard labour.

The amendments also introduced new penalties to industrialists or heads of workshops who neglect their duties in providing equipment and signs to ensure safety during occupational emergencies. Those who damage these signs due to negligence would also be fined.

The House will also discuss modifications made to the Zakat (alms for the poor) fund, and amendments to the 1982 law on tenants and landlords.

Other suggestions made by a number of deputies include: opening of new roads in Jordan, extending the electricity network, improving the situation of military conscripts and raising to JD 150 the monthly salary paid to training engineers.

Kuwaiti envoy holds talks with Fayeze, Rawabdeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Baho met Monday with Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh to discuss cooperation between the cities of Amman and Kuwait.

Later, the ambassador called on Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayeze for talks on Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations. Mr. Baho will soon end his term as ambassador here which began in 1977.

Abu Qoura calls for enquiry into Israeli use of gas bombs

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura has called on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to send an investigation team to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to look into the use of poisonous gas bombs by Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinians.

Dr. Abu Qoura, in a message he sent Monday to ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga, said that the recent death of a pregnant Arab woman in occupied Gaza was as a result of a gas bomb. This, he added, was a violation of the 4th Geneva Convention, which stresses the necessity of protecting pregnant women and the prevention of attacks against them under all circumstances.

Work stepped up on phase two of Sahab industrial city

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work on the second phase of the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) by the International Contracting and Investment Company (ICICO) is expected to be completed before the end of this year, according to Director-General of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Fayeze Subeimat.

Dr. Subeimat said that work has been stepped up on the project in view of the increasing interest of investors in development projects in the industrial city.

The contract awarded to the ICICO provides for laying the

city's infrastructure, constructing three types of steel buildings and the addition of a wastewater treatment plant to the phase one infrastructure.

Dr. Subeimat said that the cost of phase two of the project is expected to reach JD 2 million.

The European Community (EC) is providing 50 per cent of the cost of phase two, and the balance is covered by the JIEC.

The EC has built a vocational training centre, at the SIC at a cost of \$1.4 million, which was turned over to the Vocational Training Corporation by the EC representative in Jordan last October.

Madaba reports on 1987 school construction projects

MADABA (Petra) — The Ministry of Education in 1987 completed work on school building projects in Madaba District worth a total of JD 1,565,200, according to Deeb Majali, director of the education department here.

Mr. Majali said that the projects involved the construction of school buildings and other facilities, such as laboratories and playgrounds, as well as vocational training facilities.

He said that the ministry is now undertaking projects worth JD

2,515,000 for setting up additional school buildings.

These schools are being built in Madaba itself and villages and towns throughout the district, Mr. Majali noted.

He said that his department has purchased 30 dunams of land, at a cost of JD 2 million, for the new schools, but work on the projects is not expected to begin until the end of 1988.

To date, Madaba District has 132 schools offering education to 25,556 students and employing 1,361 teachers.

Preparations for conference on unemployment underway

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has begun preparing for a conference on unemployment in Jordan in April.

The head of the university's economic department, Dr. Hussein Tala'ha, said that the conference will discuss working papers on the general conditions of unemployment and the utilisation of indigenous economic resources to tackle the unemployment problem at present and in the future.

Specialists from Jordanian universities, the public and private sectors, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be taking part in the

conference. Unemployment has become one of the main problems facing Jordan, according to results of a study recently conducted at the Royal Scientific Society.

The study said that more than two-thirds of the unemployed were below the age of 30. In addition, the unemployment rate was estimated to increase from 6.9 per cent in 1986 to 10 per cent in 1990, according to the study.

World Bank figures for 1986 said that if the present economic trends in Jordan continued, unemployment was expected to reach 30 per cent by 1990.

Cabinet modifies ministries, sets up new ministerial committees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing will be in charge of the Housing Corporation, which was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment prior to the Jan. 9 Cabinet reshuffle, according to a decision by the Cabinet.

Mr. Shafiq Zawaideh, who served as Housing Corporation director became Minister of Public Works and Housing in the new set-up.

Also, the Urban Development Department will continue to be linked to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, whose head is Mr. Youssef Haman Al Jaber.

According to the Cabinet decision, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will be responsible for the following de-

partments: Culture and Arts; Libraries, Documentation and National Archives; Antiquities; and the Royal Cultural Centre.

The Cabinet, in its first meeting after the reshuffle, set up four specialised ministerial committees for proposing government policies, designing executive programmes, suggesting draft laws and regulations, supervising coordination among government departments and following up on the implementation of Cabinet decisions related to these departments.

These committees are: a committee on national guidance and information, grouping the ministers of awqaf and Islamic affairs, information, higher education, youth, culture and national heritage; a committee on economic,

Settlers open fire on protesters in West Bank

(Continued from page 1)

A second Palestinian died Monday from wounds he suffered last week, raising the number of Arabs killed by Israeli gunfire in the unrest which began Dec. 8.

Also Monday in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army faced off against Palestinian protesters who blocked the streets with large rocks, scrap metal, tree branches and overturned garbage bins (See page 2).

In the walled Old City of Jerusalem, AP photographer Anat Givon saw soldiers detain two Palestinian children despite the protests of a waiting mother. The mother, who refused to give her name, said her son was 11 years old.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) identified the man they said died of earlier injuries Monday as Basel Yazouni, 20, of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip.

The Gaza killing Monday was in the town of Khan Younis. The army said a Palestinian tried to snatch a soldier's weapon and when he failed a group of protesters attacked troops and an officer opened fire, killing one of the attackers.

Stone-throwing and tyre-burning incidents continued in several parts of the Gaza area.

Troops fired tear-gas and dispersed demonstrators in several West Bank refugee camps and placed two under curfew.

An Israeli girl was injured when a bus was stoned in Arab Jerusalem in one of several similar incidents in Arab areas of the occupied Holy City.

There were full or partial bus strikes in Arab Jerusalem, Ramallah and Hebron and authorities arrested two Arab journalists and ordered them held without trial for six months (See page 2).

In Vienna, Giorgio Giacomelli, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), told 40 delegates to Vienna-based U.N. agencies that the protests were the result of the refugees' "frustration at being left in a dead end."

He said Israel should begin "dealing with demonstrations in a different manner, not using live ammunition."

UNRWA said it was considering expanding its activities in the troubled territories and urged Israel not to go ahead with planned deportations of Palestinians. One of those slated for deportation is a teacher in an UNRWA school in the Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of Palestinians in the Sinai city of Rafah, demonstrated on Sunday against Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

North Sinai Governor Munir Shash told Reuters by telephone the demonstration was staged in coordination with the Egyptian authorities and under police protection.

"It is their right to stage such a demonstration to express their anger over Israel's violent actions," Mr. Shash said.

He said there was no damage or casualties and the protesters dispersed peacefully after about an hour.

But the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, accused Egypt Monday of shooting and wounding Palestinian protesters in Rafah and rejected Egyptian suggestions that Israel had violated the Camp David accords.

Shamir charged at a gathering of businessmen that Egyptian troops fired at several Palestinians demonstrating in Rafah, which straddles the border between Egypt and the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

In his statement, Shamir did not explain how Egyptian troops were present in Rafah since the Camp David accords prevent Egyptian soldiers from patrolling the Sinai area.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on a visit to Arab Gulf states, said Monday in Abu Dhabi that Israel had violated the Camp David accords between their two countries by annexing the Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem.

Shamir responded: "Mr. President, it is not a violation of the camp accords. Nothing was said in the Camp David accords on Jerusalem or the Golan Heights."

He reiterated his fierce opposition to an international conference which Mr. Mubarak said was the best way to end the present violence and the stalemate in the peace process.

Shamir urged Egypt to return to the Camp David accords which call for Palestinian "autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for five years, after which the permanent status of the occupied areas would be determined.

"We signed an agreement with Egypt nine years ago. There was a solution agreed upon for the same people who are rioting today," he added.

"With all the plans suggested until today, there has not been a more practical, more realistic or better idea than this solution," Shamir contended.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told visiting U.N. envoy Marrack Gouling that unless a solution was found with Jordan, Gaza could face the same endless violent anarchy as Lebanon.

"We have to choose between a Lebanonisation of the Gaza Strip or a Jordanisation of the area. The solution cannot be reached unilaterally but must be found with Jordan and the Palestinians," spokesman Elrud Gol quoted him as saying.

Mr. Gouling is on a mission to study the safety of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Iraqis shatter lull in 'tanker war'

(Continued from page 1)

any such raid. But the source said the long-range attack was carried out between 6:20 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (1520 and 1700 GMT).

He said there was no immediate word on the extent of damage. The island lies inside a military exclusion zone declared by Iran.

Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying Monday that Iraqi fighter-bombers hit two "large maritime targets," which usually means tankers, at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. (1800 GMT and 2000 GMT) Sunday.

Arab diplomatic sources reported last week that Iraq had agreed to halt its air force blitz of Iranian tankers as part of a Syrian initiative to broker talks between Iran and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to find ways of ending the Gulf war.

It was unclear on Monday whether Iraq's tanker raids had jeopardised those talks and there was no immediate reaction from Tehran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met a United Arab Emirates (UAE) envoy in Tehran on Sunday night and said Iran was optimistic about any cooperation which would reduce the influence of foreign powers in the Gulf.

Sources quoted by AP had also reported that Tehran had agreed to delay a long-anticipated water offensive in the land war so the talks, which would not directly involve Iraq, could be held.

However, the reported scale-down in fighting was not seen as an overall ceasefire. The sources gave no timetable for the reported dialogue.

'Soviets will back Iran embargo'

(Continued from page 1)

absolutely clear, we are not dragging our feet."

Mr. Bruteus said on the last leg of a Gulf tour to brief regional leaders on the outcome of Dec. 7-10 superpower summit between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan and to discuss the situation in the Gulf in light of the protracted war.

He also reiterated that his country would support a follow-up resolution envisaging sanctions against Iran when it "feels that there is no other way" to induce Tehran to accept peace.

The United States has been spearheading efforts at the U.N. Security Council to push an arms

embargo against Iran, the party held responsible for the failure of the council to push through the ceasefire resolution that it adopted by unanimous vote last July 20.

The embargo is envisaged as a follow-up resolution by the council in line with the U.N. Charter which calls for sanctions against countries that do not abide by its resolutions.

Mr. Bruteus said the Soviet Union already enforces an arms embargo against Iran as a matter of official policy, but doubted that a U.N.-sponsored embargo could have enough impact on the flow of arms to Iran to affect the conflict.

The Iraqis have set up a string of World War I-style defences, with trenches and fortifications to stop an Iranian "human wave" attacks.

Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus have reported that Iraq has massed up to half a million men on the southern border in preparation for a major offensive.

"The example set by these men will sink deeply into the conscience of the Iraqis stationed... at the front," the president said.

He said the Iraqis would thus be "aware that there is no gap in the Iraqi wall."

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Health Ministry to impose strict penalties on violators of smoking ban in public places

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health is banning smoking at all cinemas, theatres, public libraries, public transport vehicles and other places considered by the ministry as public places, according to an official spokesperson at the Health Ministry Monday.

The spokesperson said that Article Three of the Public Health Safety Law on Smoking issued in 1977 bans smoking of all kinds of tobacco in any public place.

However, the source said, a specialised smoking area can be assigned in public places, provided they are approved by the minister of health.

According to the spokesperson, the 1977 law states that strict penalties shall be imposed on violators. The spokesperson said

that public places found violating the law could be closed down and proprietors would be liable for imprisonment from one week to one year and a fine from JD 10 to 200.

These regulations will be implemented, the source said, to help safeguard public health.

It was earlier announced that Jordan will observe April 7 as a non-smoking day, as called for by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Last April, a symposium on the dangers of smoking held in Amman recommended that taxes and duties on locally-produced and imported cigarettes be increased, in a drive to encourage people to give up smoking.

The symposium, organised by the Jordanian National Anti-smoking Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Health's Health Education Department, was convened to explain the detrimental effects of smoking on public health.

The symposium also recommended that smoking be forbidden in public places, offices and public means of transport. Another recommendation suggested that school curricula include facts on the unhealthy effects of smoking.

Congressmen see change in American public opinion on Arab-Israeli conflict

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two American congressmen currently visiting Jordan said Sunday that the United States had not rejected an international peace conference proposed by the United Nations.

Speaking at the World Affairs Council (WAC), Republican Bud Shuster from Pennsylvania said: "It should be strongly emphasised that the U.S. has not rejected such a conference, and there is strong support in the U.S. to push the peace process forward. This sends a message to all parties of interest."

A fellow Republican from Ohio, Michael De Wane, added that the American people understand the importance of the Arab World strategically. "We have a responsibility in the Middle East since we are a world power, but as a world power, we also have responsibilities in other parts of the world," said the congressman, who is also a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and the special House Committee investigating the Iran-contra affair.

What the American people have seen on their television screens over the past five weeks has changed public opinion, according to the congressmen.

Congressman De Wane spoke about the perception problems in the U.S.: "The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is equated with terrorism, and the Americans do not differentiate the PLO from the Palestinians."

He believes the last few weeks may have changed the American perspective. "When Americans see 14-year-old Palestinians on television, they think of their own children. I'm seeing what may be an educational process in the U.S.," Mr. De Wane said.

The two congressmen discussed with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Shafiq Zaid Ibn Shaker the general situation in the Middle East and the current events in the occupied territories in a meeting Monday.

Congressman Shuster, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, referred to the responsibility of a world power in response to a comment that once another major world event happens, the uprising in the occupied territories will be forgotten, just like the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon was forgotten. "I think it is a reality for a country such as the U.S., which has global interests focusing on many parts of the world. Any region would like to see the focus on it exclusively," he said.

He emphasised that the U.S. is struggling to play a positive role in the peace process. Referring to the recent U.S. vote at the U.N. he said, "We could have turned our back and embraced the Israeli position."

The U.S. move in the U.N. upset many people, he said, "but the U.S. government will reflect what is in its best interest. It is not against U.S. policy to defend Israel nor to say that some of Israel's policies are wrong."

When asked why the U.S. decided not to vote against the deportation of nine Palestinians — the first vote against Israel in four years — Congressman Shuster responded: "The vote speaks for itself; the U.S. administration

felt what was going on was wrong."

As to why the administration did not feel that other Israeli actions, such as the invasion of Lebanon, and bombings in Tunis and Iraq, he said: "Those stands were taken by a series of administrative actions, and it is not my position to justify; we are looking forward, not backwards."

Congressman De Wane declined to answer when asked why the U.S. has not, to date, publicly announced its support for the peace conference or applied any pressure on Israel to support the conference. "Under our system, Congress has a role, but does not get involved in negotiations. That is for the State Department to deal with," he said.

Mr. De Wane said that his responsibility as a member of Congress was "to listen to all sides, vote my conscience, vote in the interest of the half-a-million I represent, and vote in what I perceive to be the interest of the U.S."

A member of the audience pointed out that many congress people are influenced by the pro-Israel lobby because they do not see the other side, and unlike the Jews, Arabs who live in the U.S. lobby for American interests.

"Jews, on the other hand, lobby for Israel, not for American interests," he said. Congressman De Wane responded: "The more facts and opinions I have, the better my decision. That is why I am here — to find out firsthand."

In response to another question, he said that U.S. relations with Israel were long-standing and built on the support Israel has given the U.S.: "If we look for the country which has supported the U.S. on almost every policy, we will find Israel."

Congressman Shuster added that relations are based on policies. In response, another member of the audience pointed out that the U.S. is dealing with a state which follows discriminatory policies. Israel denies citizenship to non-Jews, while Jews anywhere in the world are entitled to Israeli citizenship, she said.

A member of the congressional delegation said that Israeli Arabs can obtain citizenship, and that they are only denied serving in the army.

An observer clarified that citizenship was given to the Palestinians in Israel which the Israelis could not expel when the Jewish state was created; otherwise non-Christian or Muslim could have the citizenship.

Another observer conveyed his disillusionment with U.S. policies. "When it comes to the U.S. voting, we do not see a reflection of free will and few logical patterns. It is a matter of double standards. Afghan rebels are 'freedom fighters,' while Palestinians are 'terrorists.' Jordan — a friendly nation to the U.S. — has requested arms for the past 4 to 5 years; while Iran — an enemy of the U.S. — receives arms in secret," he said.

Congressman Shuster said that the reality of the pro-Israel lobby and its strong voice was "a fact of democracy." "There are political pressures in the U.S. Jordan, likewise, has pressure from the Arab World. We must be realistic and try to overcome these res-

traints," he said.

He said that he believes "it is true that we have not been true with Jordan, but you are not being true with the U.S. if you do not see our struggle to bring peace."

In his opening comments, Congressman Shuster said that the 1973 oil embargo played a major role in injuring U.S. relations with the Arab World. "Several of my colleagues have said they would never vote for any Arab nation after the oil embargo, which will never be forgotten, and which brought the U.S. to its knees."

The arms trade with Iran was called "disgraceful" and "disastrous." "As an American, I abhor the policy, and I won't defend it, but will embrace the strongest words used against it," he said.

Another audience member commented: "Everyone is after peace, but what kind of peace? We hear about secure borders for Israel, but what about our borders? The oil embargo might have been painful, but we have more painful things. We forget about the embargo when our children are being killed by American weapons."

Opening the lecture, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Royal Jordanian Ali Ghandour spoke about the need for the U.S. to assume the role of peacebroker and to adopt even-handed policies. He said that the failure of past peace initiatives and the fact that there are no initiatives presently on the table have led to the Palestinian uprising, which is now beyond the point of no return. "It is a movement of hope, not of terrorism. Unlike individual acts which are acts of desperation, the uprising is an act of hope because, with its success, the Palestinians will be free from occupation," he said.

Mr. Ghandour stated that "basic elements of truth" Israel's denial of the West Bank and Gaza as occupied territories and the suppression of Palestinian rights. Even when the U.S. voted for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon, the Israelis remained as occupiers; or when the Jewish settlements were declared by the U.S. as illegal and as obstacles to peace, the Israelis built more settlements, thus showing the Arab World that "the U.S. political will offers consideration, but not coercion," he said.

An observer asked for the U.S. to treat the Palestinian question like the South African problem.

On these points, Congressman Shuster said that the U.S. believes the way to be effective and to be friends with Israel and Jordan is quiet persuasion. "Because forced policies would not work." The sanctions against South Africa which President Reagan rejected and which Congress endorsed, failed, he said, "and if we were to pursue the policy of 'the club' against Israel, we also would fail."

He said that ten years ago he would not have expected such close relations between Egypt and the U.S., "but once peace between Israel and Egypt came through, then our support for Egypt increased. This is indicative of what can happen when peace comes."

Congressman Shuster said he did not expect the solution to the Middle East conflicts crystallise until after the U.S. presidential elections: "We hope that out of elections, the will and environment will come out allowing us to participate." He added that Jews worldwide would have to realise the importance of peace, and that this might be the best opportunity for peace. "Israel will have to make sure this opportunity does not slip through its fingers," he said.

Fundamentalists stage Cairo protest

(Continued from page 1)

and Gaza.

Around 12 truckloads of riot police and security officers guarded Cairo's Bar Association headquarters during the rally, which was attended by about 50 bearded lawyers. The intense security appeared to have been partly because of the association's proximity to the capital's main

synagogue and the Swiss embassy.

The police did not intervene, and the demonstration ended peacefully.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman and Sheikh Salama denied government charges they had led demonstrations earlier this month that ended with police intervention and the arrest of 26 people.

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Mubarak's mission

THE ongoing visit to the Gulf states by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak represents much more than just a state visit by a head of an Arab government to another Arab country. It not only symbolises another phase in the process of restoring Arab solidarity that was launched at the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman, but also underscores the important and natural position of Egypt in the Arab World. Mr. Mubarak's calls, after talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, on Israel and Iran to accept peaceful solutions to their conflicts with the Arab World emphasised the shared Arab realisation of the common nature of the Iranian threat to the eastern flank of the Arab Nation and the Israeli menace on the other side.

We hope that the ayatollahs in Tehran have truly understood the message contained in the Egyptian leader's warning to them, issued in Riyadh Sunday, not to take the Arab Gulf states for granted and persist in their campaign to undermine the security and stability of the region through their expansionist designs. No doubt, Mr. Mubarak's visit itself and the manifestations of increasing cooperation and coordination between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Egypt will serve as a resounding reminder to the Iranian rulers that they will have to contend with the added political and military weight of Egypt in their drive to export their revolution and to benefit from chaos and instability in the name of Islam, as they sought to do during last year's pilgrimage to Mecca.

It was indeed an open challenge that Mr. Mubarak posed to the Israeli leaders when he asked why Yitzhak Shamir, prime minister of the Jewish state, was continuing to reject the idea of an international conference and why the Likud leader was afraid to sit down with the Arabs and negotiate peace within the framework of international legitimacy. But, it is no secret that Shamir and company cannot be so easily swayed from what they perceive as a position of strength, questionable as it is, in the Arab-Israeli equation. At the same time, the ongoing Palestinian revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is a constant reminder to the Israeli leaders of the pressing need for a just and durable settlement to the conflict.

In any event, Mr. Mubarak will also be talking from the position of political strength when he meets U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington on Jan. 28. He will be presenting a joint Arab stand towards the two festering problems — the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict — having heard firsthand the unambiguous views of the Gulf Arab states towards the war and the Palestinian problem. This in itself should discourage the American leadership from continuing to procrastinate and issue vague statements on its stand towards the Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East. The Egyptian leader's mission, which comes at a time of stagnation and deadlock in peace efforts, have our wholehearted support; and we hope it will be successful in charting a clear-cut course for the Arabs in the path towards the cherished goal of peace in the region.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King receives Syrian message

KING Hussein Sunday received a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad dealing with efforts being made by Damascus to find an end to the Gulf conflict. The Syrians have been working within the framework of the agreement and consensus reached by Arab leaders at their extraordinary summit meeting in Amman last November; and it seems that the summit had indeed opened the way for successful steps to be taken by Syria and any other Arab state towards finding solutions to Arab problems. In fact the on-going Gulf war had prompted the Arabs in the first place to attend the summit in order to arrive at an agreement and strengthen solidarity among Arab countries. The Middle East question which was also discussed by the Arab leaders in November is now attracting world attention specially as the Arab leaders had agreed on unifying their stands with regard to a settlement. The Syrian moves to end the Gulf war are being made in a favourable atmosphere as world nations continue to call for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on the issue. At the same time all efforts are being made for convening an international Middle East peace conference; and the way is open for fresh efforts to achieve that end in view of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the world-wide condemnation of Israel's inhuman practices. We sincerely hope that the Arab countries will continue their efforts to end the Gulf war and also rally world nations' efforts to convene an international conference to end the Middle East problem.

Al Dustour: Rabin bewildered

ISRAEL'S Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who is leading the campaign to stifle the Arab resistance in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, has finally admitted that the current uprising had not been expected and that he does not know when it could end. When the uprising first broke out the Israelis thought that they would soon put it down through sending a handful of troops and detaining Arab youths, but in an interview Sunday Rabin made it clear that the uprising was cause for concern to Israeli leaders and that no one could predict its end. This admission, coupled with the fact that the Israeli troops have so far proved incapable of quelling the revolt, implies that the military force employed by Israel to repress the Arab population cannot hold out in the face of the Arab people's resistance and determination to gain freedom. It means that regardless of the huge number of troops and weaponry massed against the Arab population, the Israelis are losing control over the situation; and despite the arbitrary measures against the Arabs, nothing will stand in the people's way for regaining their rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's ugly face unveiled

AS the Arab uprising against Israelis in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continues Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his war minister Yitzhak Rabin have been issuing statements reiterating the Jewish state's adamant rejection of all rights to the Palestinian people and presenting the world public opinion with new falsehoods. Shamir is still rejecting the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East and his war minister is persistent in carrying on the repression against the Arabs to subdue them and stifle their resistance. The Arabs are waging a wave of anti-Israeli actions designed to help them regain their freedom and legitimate rights in their own homeland, while the Israelis continue to step up their repressive measures to quell the Arabs' revolt which has won support from world nations.

Ansar II: The school for Gaza resistance fighters

By Glenn Frankel

GAZA CITY, Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip — It was just another demonstration in the occupied Gaza Strip, where protest is a way of life. Students poured out of Palestine Secondary School last March in honour of the 30th anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza after the Suez crisis and headed up a main road to link up with students from another school. Israeli soldiers arrived and dozens were rounded up.

Samer Zaket, 16, and Diya Hanawi, 15, were among them. They were sentenced by a military court to two months for inciting a riot and taken to the makeshift detention centre near the coast here known by residents as Ansar II. It was the first time either youth had been away from home.

When they got there, they say, they were crammed into a damp, chilly prison cell with about 30 other Palestinians, ranging in age from 12 to 24. The food was bad, the mattresses dirty and the treatment by some Israeli guards, they contend, was harsh. The youths were terrified of what would happen to them.

While in Ansar II they learned many lessons. After a few weeks together, the prisoners staged a four-day hunger strike for more blankets and better food, and they got to know each other in the intense way that people do when tough circumstances bring them together. When they came out last May, they found they were considered heroes by their classmates and neighbours, "graduates" whose time in prison won them respect and admiration.

"The first two days I was so scared, but the other boys supported me," Samer recalled. "But by the time we got out, we were much more nationalistic than when we went in."

Those who have sought to analyze last month's riots — including Israeli military officials, Western diplomats and Palestinians themselves — believe it was

youths like these, ranging in age from 15 to 25, who were the street warriors. The hard-core leadership in Gaza, many contend, consisted of about 150 to 200 young men, all of them recent graduates of Ansar II.

What happened to Samer and Diya at Ansar II has happened to hundreds, even thousands, of other Palestinian youths in recent years. The process of radicalisation begins on the streets and in the schools, but for many it is the first run-in with Israeli troops and military justice that is the crucial moment that changes angry young men into determined fighters.

"You put in stone throwers and they come out grenade throwers," said Hishm Goodman, veteran military commentator of The Jerusalem Post. "The prison experience is definitely something that doesn't deter them. They come back to school wearing it like a badge of honour."

"It is a new generation of people born since the occupation began 20 years ago and they dominate the streets," said Zuhair Rayyes, a Gazan author and journalist closely identified with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "They're not afraid of the Israelis. They don't worry about aircraft or missiles. They are very well organised and they have a very simple weapon — the stone."

Their "finishing school" is a collection of box-shaped gray buildings and army tents located on a collection of sand dunes behind razor wire, electrical fences and guard towers near the seashore. The army officially calls it the "Beach Installation". But to both sides it is known by the nickname Ansar II.

The original Ansar was a temporary detention facility in southern Lebanon where hundreds of Palestinian fighters were held captive during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The nickname residents say emphasises the link between Gazans and their Palestinian brothers in Lebanon and their common enemy: Israel.

Ansar II is a special detention centre. Unlike most of the military prisons in the West Bank and Gaza, it is operated not by

Israel's prison service, but by the army and its military police.

Palestinians and their lawyers say conditions there are miserable. Doctors at nearby Shifa hospital say they receive patients daily from Ansar II with broken or bruised limbs or other injuries they contend were inflicted by prison guards. Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer has petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court to release eight of her clients on the grounds that they have been tortured or otherwise abused at Ansar II.

Senior army officials have pledged that Palestinian prisoners in West Bank prisons would receive correct treatment in adequate facilities, but have maintained public silence about conditions in Gaza. It was not possible to verify independently any of the charges of Palestinians about conditions at Ansar II, and the army has not allowed reporters to tour the facility. But it is clear that the prison's reputation stirs deep fears in Gaza.

Prisoners rounded up during the past few weeks who were brought to military courts for trial often appeared demoralised and trembling, and some seemed close to tears. Most of them were first offenders getting their first taste of confinement; for many, it was also their first contact with Israelis.

But the fear is a temporary phenomenon, according to some Ansar II graduates. "What happens is that before someone is in prison, he hears about the terrible things that happen in Ansar II and he is afraid," said Hijazi Barbar, who spent three days in the facility in October. "But after he goes in and sees it, the fear goes out of him and experience shows he is more willing to fight and do something."

Barbar is a 30-year-old prayer leader at the El Katiba mosque here, who wears a beard and the gray, flowing robe of an imam. He is considered to be in the forefront of the Islamic revival movement, which has joined forces with secular Palestinian nationalists in recent months and presented a united front against the Israeli occupation.

Because of his involvement, by his own count he has been

arrested 14 times over the past decade and has seen the inside of more than six Israeli detention centres, including those in Ashkelon, Ramle and Kfar Yonah, and the central prison in Gaza. Ansar II, he says, is the worst.

He, too, shared a prison cell with 30 to 35 inmates who slept on the floor on dirty mattresses. Each prisoner had to share a mattress with one and sometimes two other people. "We went to sleep like sardines in a can, one right on top of the other," recalled Barbar.

There was no running water in the cell and no toilet. Prisoners were given tin cans to relieve themselves and once each day were allowed to use toilet facilities outside. They were often required to run to and from the toilet, he said, and sometimes beaten when they did not move quickly enough.

On one occasion, Barbar said, when prisoners refused to stand up for the daily count guards fired a tear-gas canister into the cell. He said he was accused of helping to instigate the rebellion and was beaten by guards and placed in a one-yard-square isolation cell for four hours with his hands tied behind his back and his legs in chains. He finally was taken to a medical facility because of an injury to his leg that he says still plagues him.

Barbar said prisoners quickly organise themselves at Ansar II and develop their own leaders and rules. Different political groups — communists, followers of the PLO's main wing, Fateh, and supporters of the fundamentalist movement, Islamic Jihad — have their own leaders, but all work together to oppose the prison administration.

"It's like a melting pot," he said. "Someone who throws a stone and gets put in jail often has no connection with any particular leadership or movement. He enters jail and he becomes part of the system. They teach him about culture, about politics, about relations between people, and after two or three months he comes out more of a danger to the occupation than he was when he went in." — The Washington Post.



LETTERS

World inaction, for how long?

To the Editor

THE Israeli leaders, and world leaders for that matter, are sadly mistaken to view the ongoing Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza as just another spasm of demonstrations which will die down soon. Twenty years of life under oppression and the worst forms of containment have turned the Palestinian people in the occupied territories into a massive force to be reckoned with. The Palestinian spirit and longing for freedom cannot be stifled with the biggest of Israeli bullets or nerve-gas canisters. The realisation that life under occupation means life in limbo with nothing to look forward to and nothing to lose is the very weapon that strengthens the Palestinians, six-year-olds and 16-year-olds alike. It is only because they cannot lay their hands on anything else that the Palestinians are using stones and burning tyres against the Israelis. A new Palestinian generation has reached maturity and no force, how strong it might be, stands any chance to block its advance. This is the message that the anti-occupation protests send to the outside world. The five-year toddler from Khan Yunis who wields a stone in search of an Israeli target is sending an unmistakable signal: The international community cannot do anything about me and my people's plight but I can and I don't care if it means death.

Western media reports from the occupied territories paint a picture of the Palestinians resuming protests as reactions to given incidents while the reality that the uprising has now become an ongoing process, whether in the remotest corner of the Gaza Strip or at the northern end of the West Bank, and a showdown will come today, tomorrow or the next week or month. As every day passes, more and more Palestinians are falling victim to Israeli bullets and gas canisters but the intensity of the protests is only increasing. And by the time the final showdown comes, many more would have joined their brothers and sisters in death and the world at large would be at a loss to answer the families which lost their loved ones. How long will the international community choose to remain inactive? U.N. resolutions and condemnations are welcome but they are definitely not the answer. Definite world action against a tyrannical power which accepts no known norms of behaviour and believes only in muscles and bullets is the call of the day. If the international community continues to opt for inaction and statements of condemnation, the day will come when it will find it hard to explain its silence. The Palestinian revolt is indeed a question to the world conscience; but whether the world acts or not, we have yet to see the worst.

It is strange that the political leaderships around the world appear to think that a strict diplomatic approach to Israel would provide a solution to the problem while it is only too evident that the Jewish state has no other design than expansionism; and will only refuse to accept a solution based on justice for the Palestinian people. If anything, the Israeli leaders are taking full advantage of the Palestinian rebellion to jail as many nationalist leaders as possible and are wasting no opportunity to order the occupation soldiers to open fire and kill as many as possible. No doubt, they believe that their "iron-fist" policy will not only eliminate all voices of dissent but also encourage a good part of the rest of the oppressed Palestinians to pack their scanty belongings and leave their homeland to make room for Jews.

The main question that confronts the man on the street who is not familiar with the intricacies of diplomacy and political considerations is: "Is there nothing that the powerful leaders of nations who thump their chests to emphasise their records of respect for human rights could do to end the plight of the Palestinians? Is there nothing they could do to confront Israel with no diplomatic disguise and ask straight questions — do you want peace or not? Or do you want to continue to chalk new records in killing Palestinians?" Perhaps these questions are very naive, unfitting for the given situation in Palestine today and the political labyrinth that shrouds the core issue. But these questions have to be asked and answered. However, do we have world leaders courageous enough to pull up Israel and thus incur the almighty Zionist wrath as it is happening to Austria's Kurt Waldheim today? As long as no nation has the courage to tear away the political veil thrown around the Palestinian problem and decides to treat the people of Palestine as a people which seeks liberation from oppressors, it is a shame on the international community that it watched in silence with folded hands and witnessed the slaughter of a people. History will record the fog end of the 20th century as a period when the world produced no-one who believed in the concept that "it is indeed a sin to commit injustice, but it is a sin beyond description to watch in silence and witness an injustice being committed."

Inad Khairallah
Amman

U.S., Soviet negotiators go for big prize: Strategic arms pact

By Patrick Worsnip

Reuter

LONDON — With a medium-range missile pact now behind them, U.S. and Soviet negotiators sit down this week aiming for the big prize: A strategic arms agreement which they say would have their long-range nuclear arsenals.

The officials who resume talks in Geneva on Thursday are trying to complete the accord for U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to sign at their next summit, scheduled to take place in Moscow before the end of June.

The deadline is not absolute, since Reagan and Gorbachev said after their last meeting in Washington last month they expected to hold the summit with or without the strategic arms agreement.

But diplomats said the pressure was on the negotiators from both Washington and Moscow to wrap up a treaty in time for what is expected to be the last superpower summit of the Reagan presidency. Reagan steps down in a year's time.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last week voiced optimism the treaty could be achieved. While admitting there were difficult problems to resolve, he said: "We have a track record of finding our way through some of these thickets."

Shultz said he and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze planned to meet every month until the summit.

Strategic arms are those with which the superpowers can strike at the heart of each other's territory. They include land-based nuclear missiles of more than 2,000-kilometre range, submarine-launched missiles, and long-range bombers launching cruise missiles and Hiroshima-style bombs.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, the superpowers hold between them some 25,000 strategic warheads. The use of just some of them could lay waste to much or all of the world, many scientists believe.

The Americans and Soviets

have been searching since 1982 for a successor to their 1979 SALT-2 treaty, which sought to put a ceiling on their strategic arsenals but failed to stop the arms race as a result of technological advances.

The Reykjavik summit of 1986 produced a first breakthrough, with agreement on a limit of 6,000 warheads per side contained on no more than 1,600 "launchers" — missiles or bombers.

But a major stumbling block since the Geneva talks entered their present phase in 1985 has been Moscow's refusal to sign a strategic pact without curbs on the U.S. "Star Wars" space defence programme.

Reagan has refused to back down on the project, a futuristic

system of beams and projectiles to shoot down incoming missiles, and rejects Soviet arguments that it would violate the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

A joint statement on the Washington summit called for an agreement that would allow research, deployment and testing "permitted by the ABM treaty" of defensive devices, but did not mention that there was no agreement on what the treaty permits.

Reagan said after the summit, at which he and Gorbachev signed an historic treaty abolishing their medium-range missiles, that Moscow was no longer linking a strategic arms accord with Star Wars restrictions.

But U.S. officials have since been more cautious, and Gor-

bachev has denied that he has changed his stance.

"The Russians have downplayed the link, but we assume it's still there," a U.S. diplomat said last week.

A U.S.-Soviet group negotiating on space defences alongside the strategic arms group is expected to seek a compromise on the ABM treaty, including how long the two sides would promise to adhere to it. Moscow has proposed 10 years and Washington until the end of 1994.

On strategic arms, the Washington summit marked a step forward by agreeing that the combined total of each side's land- and submarine-based missiles warheads should be 4,900, within the overall ceiling of 6,000.

Still to be decided is the difficult issue of separate limits for the two kinds of missiles. The Soviet strategic force is largely land-based, while the United States relies heavily on submarines.

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Khalifi's film portrays Palestinian heritage, traditions

The Wedding of Galilee: A critical look at a unique relationship



Khalifi directs a young actor



The bride feels the traditional blessings of the sword

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AFTER more than 41 years of the creation of the Jewish state in the land of Palestine, Arabs, who have remained in their homeland, still perceive Israel an occupying power. On the other hand the Israelis, despite their power and attempts to confiscate the Palestinian heritage, still feel alien as Palestinians strongly hold on to their traditions and lands.

This is the main theme of the Palestinian film "The Wedding of Galilee," which was the first Palestinian movie to win prizes at two European festivals. The Wedding of Galilee won the critics award and the first prize of the Cannes and San Sebastian film festivals respectively.

But the movie is most distinguished for its theme and style. The most salient feature of the whole production is that it presents a rare glimpse of the relationship between the Palestinians inside the Jewish state and the Israeli system.

The fact that the film director is an Israeli Arab who was born following the establishment of the Jewish state seems to give the plot more authenticity. "It is the first long film produced by the Palestinians from occupied Palestine of 1948," Jordanian movie critic Adnan Madanat said. "This makes it very special particularly because it expresses, for the first time, (the Palestinian) suffering under occupation through their own voice and their own insight," Mr. Madanat wrote in a special study on the movie published in the monthly Al Jeel magazine.

In general Arab and Western critics consider Mr. Michel Khalifi, the film director, "a talented and distinguished director," but it was his last movie which earned him international recognition and sparked a serious debate among Palestinian and Arab intellectuals. Mr. Madanat, who described Mr. Khalifi as a director with deep insight and untraditional style, said that his recent movie proved "his distinction."

"This movie is distinguished on

the artistic and intellectual levels, it is just a magnificent, extremely sensitive and deep work of art," Mr. Madanat maintained.

Both the plot and the theme of the movie are very sensitive and highly controversial. But it was Khalifi's amazingly blunt and daring presentation which made the movie extremely unique and special.

The story starts when a chief (mukhtar) of a village in north Galilee goes to the Israeli military governor of the area to ask for permission to hold a wedding party for his son. He needs such a permission since the village is under a curfew as the Israeli authorities view its inhabitants to be "trouble makers."

The military governor at first refuses but then agrees provided he and his aides were invited to the wedding. The mukhtar also agreed but stipulated that the Israeli officers should attend the one day wedding until its very end.

When the mukhtar goes back to his village he faces a difficult situation and tries to convince his family and friends of the arrangement reached with the Israeli governor.

The villagers become divided into three groups. The first supports the arrangement in order to hold the wedding. "Life has to continue despite the presence of the military and the authority's laws," a nephew of the mukhtar says.

The mukhtar's younger brother, however, believes that the arrangement is humiliating and rejects it. "How can we accept such a thing while the blood of our martyrs has not even dried yet...there is no happiness without dignity and there is no dignity as long as the occupation army is over our heads," the uncle pledges.

A group of young men who overhear the uncle's angry words decide to take a step further by planning to assassinate the military governor and his aides during the wedding.

Nevertheless the mukhtar, who was suspicious though unaware of the young men's scheme, proceeds with the wedding preparations. The preparations themselves become a portrayal of the Palestinian traditions which Mr. Khalifi presents with a great deal of romance while at the same

time avoiding any nationalist chauvinism.

According to Mr. Madanat the director successfully portrays a mosaic of Palestinian life and traditions. "Michel has drawn a mosaic of the Palestinian life in all its dimensions and its details, he has drawn a painting which depicts the Palestinian life under occupation."

What we actually see is a people proud of their heritage and angry at the occupation. The feelings of anger and frustration are expressed in the people's commitments to their heritage as well as their direct rejection of an alien rule through songs which become part of the folklore.

"We prefer the stabs of daggers to the rule of bastards," sings a woman in the night before the wedding day. Her voice is soon silenced by the orders and the bullets shot in the air by the Israeli soldiers surrounding the village. Such songs of defiance are always heard during weddings. In fact many reports in the Israeli press have described how Arab weddings often transform into national demonstrations.

This land is our homeland... so what does (right wing leader of the Israeli Kach movement Meir) Kahane mean when he talks about the homeland... we ask (leader of the Israeli Labour Party Shimon) Peres to answer to that," sing the men during the wedding to the hearing of an irritated Israeli military governor. The wedding is held with all of the festivities that characterise such celebrations in Palestinian villages.

However, the heavy presence of the Israeli soldiers and the military governor creates a tense and uneasy atmosphere. Meanwhile villagers, some by midday, are already drunk and do not hesitate to show their disdain and anger at the Israeli soldiers and the governor himself. In fact they enjoy making moves which could alert or scare the Israelis present.

At around midday they start circulating a covered, suspicious-looking basket to the extreme discomfort of the Israeli governor who watches very carefully. After a few minutes of unnerving the Israelis a man removes the cover to take out a flute and begins playing amidst an outburst of laughter at the Israelis' fears.

During the celebrations the

militant young men set out to prepare for their operation by using hand-made grenades (molotovs). Their movements, however, alert the Israeli soldiers but the rejectionist uncle discovers the plot just in time to stop it and remove the evidence.

By the end of the wedding the Israeli soldiers storm the village and start a house to house search for the boys but to no avail. Finally when the military governor leaves, the villagers again show their disdain and contempt.

The aborted scheme to assassinate the military governor has drawn criticism to the film by some Palestinian and Arab writers who viewed it as a direct condemnation of armed struggle. "It showed the futility of the armed struggle," a Palestinian writer who asked not to be named told the Jordan Times.

Other critics disagree and say that Mr. Khalifi was not condemning armed struggle but only poorly planned military operations against the Israelis. Mr. Khalifi says that very clearly in the movie. "I am not against killing the military governor, but to what price? What is the use of starting a massacre in which many of our people will die?" the rejectionist uncle says to himself after managing to stop the young men from carrying their plan.

Despite the film projection of the daily hostility and contradictions between the Palestinians and the Israeli authorities it yet contains a call for a peaceful co-existence without abandoning the Palestinian rights and without a superior and a racist Israeli military rule.

This message was conveyed in more than one scene, but perhaps the two most expressive ones are the following:

The first when the teenage sister of the bridegroom challenges an Israeli soldier to dance. "But you cannot dance with us with your military uniform on."

The second scene was when an Israeli woman soldier faints from the heat and the Palestinian women take her inside one of the houses. When she wakes up they give her a traditional Palestinian costume to change into. Once she gets rid of her military uniform the atmosphere of hostility and contradictions disappears to be replaced by complete harmony and affection. The Arab women

look with warmth and admiration at the Israeli soldier in the Palestinian dress.

These scenes reflect an endorsement of a Palestinian secular state where Jews and Arabs could live in equality and justice. Whatever the political insight behind these scenes, they reflected beyond doubt how the director has transcended beyond racial and religious discriminations to promote a humanitarian solution.

The tendency characterises most, if not all, the works of Palestinian poets, novelists and artists who live inside Israel.

Besides its political arguments the film presented very controversial social concepts and problems. Despite its beautiful portrayal of the Palestinian traditions, the director strongly condemns some of the traditions which in his view have impeded the social and national struggle. The enslavement to traditions are clear in the character of the mukhtar who at times becomes weak as his main concern is to satisfy the community's expectations of himself and his family.

The mukhtar's enslavement to old traditions affect his son the most. The son resents his father's commitment to "meaningless traditions" but finds himself too weak to confront the old man. As a result his anger and frustration at his father's approval to invite the Israeli military governor to



The wedding in procession

the wedding transforms into sexual impotence on his wedding night. The son is caught between his humiliation that his wedding was held under Israeli guns and the social pressure to prove his manhood on the wedding night as the tradition warrants that the bridegroom shows the stains of his bride's blood after deflowering her.

The bride finally takes the initiative, to end her husband's agony, by deflowering herself by her own hand.

At this point Mr. Khalifi expresses his strongest condemnation of the association between virginity and honour in the Arab heritage.

"If you want to preserve the dignity of everybody I shall deflower myself and end my virginity with my own hand... but if virginity is the symbol of the girl's honour... what is the symbol of the man's honour? the bride asks defiantly before she pierces her hymen with her finger."

The scene of the wedding night, which is shown in details unprecedented in Palestinian and Arab movies, was shocking to many writers and critics who thought it was still premature to present such details to a relatively conservative audience. Other critics argued that such shocking and daring scenes were needed to maintain the strength of the movie.

Critics, however, do not expect the film to be a commercial success in the Arab world despite its international awards. The film has not been presented by movie theatres in Jordan but the Jordan Cine Club has already made a number of screenings of the Wedding of Galilee which has attracted the attention of the Jordanian audience.

"There is no doubt that The Wedding of Galilee is an extraordinary movie that can be paralleled by very few Arab movies in the history of Arab film industry," concluded Mr. Madanat.



Three generations in the shadow of an ancient tree

Rapid growth of data-bank not a universal trend outside America

By Ralf Gunther Munchow

IN 1957 the Soviets launched Sputnik into orbit. It sent out signals which were unintelligible to eavesdroppers.

The Americans spent \$20m and six months work on deciphering the code.

Only later did the Americans realise they could have saved themselves both the time and the money. Data about the Soviet code was in an American university library. But not one researcher on the decoding team thought of looking for the information there.

Today, this sort of experience is believed to be the driving force behind the developing of data bank systems.

As a result of this, according to IGE — the German Economics Institute — 30 years after Sputnik, there are 3,400 databanks accessible to the public around the world.

Libraries all over the world are now faced with a dangerous new rival. For data banks are in reality archives. Though admittedly stored in computers, which electronically stores, distributes and keeps on call data.

The data is collected from different fields by 530 private computing centres called Hosts. Whoever wants data receives an access code word. His computer then receives the data over the telecommunications net. The post office sends the bill afterwards.

The advantages of data banks over libraries is obvious. The user can receive printed information within seconds without having to leave his desk.

And the system functions optimally regardless of whether information is required on exchange rates in New York, short technical reports from London or specialist essays and reports on German enterprises, markets or patents.

When one takes into account how many hours are lost looking for information in libraries, one would expect to see a boom in the use of data banks.

Surprisingly it's not the case. The concept is still alien to many medium sized Central European and Japanese firms. Whereas in America it has long since been routine.

The Institute of Economics

The Americans lead the data bank market with 75 per cent of the turnover. They are followed by Britain, with 10 per cent. The Japanese and Swiss each have three per cent and the Germans and the French each only two per cent.

estimates that the Hosts will have made a turnover of DM4.3b by 1987. Which is not much when one takes into account that ten times that amount is spent on all specialist information when one takes into account the combined cost of electronically stored or printed data.

The Americans lead the data bank market with 75 per cent of the turnover. They are followed by Britain, with 10 per cent. The Japanese and Swiss each have three per cent and the Germans and the French each only two per cent.

Chemical enterprises in Germany, which are also from runners in international markets, lead in the domestic market with 33 per cent in the use of data information. According to IGE,

public institutions such as universities or associations use 31 per cent and the electronics industry makes up 14 per cent. Other service industries make up 12 per cent.

A market study commissioned in 1986 by the Economic Affairs Ministry in Bonn from the Munich based Ifo-Institute, found that there was little use being made of external data banks.

This finding is not new. Already in the early 80s, the German government set out its specialist information programme to reinforce the promotion of enterprise, so that steadily increasing mass information could be dealt with by electronically.

Bonn spent DM939m between 1983 and 1988. The Federal Research Ministry estimates that about 20 per cent is being spent on setting up data banks.

Entrepreneurs from even states like Lower Saxony are profiting from such developments. Lothar Schaar is a good example. He is the commercial head of the EZN in Hannover, a Lower Saxony research centre. Apart from research promotion, his specialists offer an information service to those who afford their own computers.

The team of experts has been receiving subsidies since it got together in 1981. Originally the Lower Saxony Economics Ministry gave the subsidy, but this was taken over at the start of this year by the federal government. Without these subsidies neither the research nor the data services could remain viable.

Since 1986 the number of information brokers has increased from 175 to 250 in West Germany. Fifty of them are commercial. Nearly all of them need public subsidies. In the USA there are about million.

There are many reasons for this lack of impetus in the German market, and they are to be found

on both the supply and demand side.

One thing is certain. There are too few data banks supporting the German economy. The Ifo-Institute has ascertained that particularly branch and overall economic information has not been electronically stored.

Managers need precisely such information in order to be able to introduce new products to the market. Since the middle of 1985, and not least because of support from Bonn, this gap is being closed.

The main problem for suppliers and brokers are the medium sized firms, to whom one otherwise attributes innovative enthusiasm. 1.7 out of 1.9 million entrepreneurs do not know how to get access to data banks. The Ifo-institute believes that traditional ways of gathering information are the culprit.

Such firms place a lot of value on contact of it's representatives with customers. As a result, trade fairs are highly thought of.

The documentation in such firms is usually miserable. Instead of improving the market position by acting on empirical information, they usually act on the boss's instinct.

Experts believe that professional brokers who do research and reports for other firms can look ahead to rosy times. It would appear that a new profession is making ground in the service industry landscape.

But experts warn that the computer language and service problems, which additionally handicaps acceptance of data banks, will partly be solved in the coming ten years.

People will not find the prospect of themselves making use of computers so off putting. Furthermore, sooner or later even medium-sized firms will need computers for drawing up statements or doing the books — Hamoversche Allgemeine.

National Geographic marks centennial

By Christopher Connell
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One hundred years ago, 33 men gathered in the Cosmos Club near the White House to map plans for "organising a society for the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge."

This Wednesday, the heirs to that tradition are throwing a birthday party to mark the 100th anniversary of an organisation that has grown into the world's largest scientific and educational membership organisation: The National Geographic Society.

Gilbert M. Grosvenor, the president and chairman of the 10.5-million-member society, will use the occasion to announce "a centennial gift to the nation." It is expected to take the form of an expansion of the \$4 million-a-year drive the non-profit society launched in 1983 to combat geographic illiteracy.

If the society itself has grown and prospered in a dazzling array of media — from the pages of National Geographic Magazine to the profusion of maps from its own staff of cartographers to award-winning television specials on the earth's wonders to the nearly 8 million books and other publications it sells each year — geography itself has fallen on hard times in America's schools.

"We must share the blame for not having been more effective in promoting geographic education in the past," said Wilber E. Garrett, editor of National Geographic, in the first issue of his magazine's centennial year. But he adds, "that has changed."

The society today is a massive enterprise with revenues of \$350 million a year, several thousand employees and a complex of buildings in downtown Washington that span a city block.

When President Ronald Reagan arrived in June 1984 to dedicate the newest addition to this complex, a Maya temple-like glass edifice, he quipped, "I guess you have trouble storing your old national geographics, too."

The society will also unveil a

new exhibit in its explorers hall this Wednesday, and in October will replace the world's largest, free-standing globe in that hall with a new one. The current version measures 11 feet from pole to pole and 34.5 feet around at the equator.

The society's committee for research and exploration, which spends \$5 million a year on scientific research, will sponsor a four-day symposium in late January on "Earth '88: Changing geographic perspectives."

The yellow-bordered magazine for decades avoided politics and controversy except for the ones that raged over the pictures of bare-breasted natives from distant climes that showed up periodically in its pages.

Its ruling philosophy was once that "only what is of a kindly nature is printed about any country or people, everything unpleasant or unduly critical being avoided." That policy explains an uncritical article on Nazi Germany in the late 1930s and the magazine's looking the other way for years on segregation and racial problems in the United States.

But that changed in the 1970s under Grosvenor, great-grandson of Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone inventor and the society's second president.

In recent years the magazine has expanded its reach into such issues as chemical pollution, acid rain and nuclear power, and written frankly about New York's impoverished black community in Harlem as well as the racial problems of South Africa.

Among the 3,300 scientific research projects, explorations and adventures in which the society had a hand were: Robert E. Peary's 1909 trek to the North Pole; Richard E. Byrd's first flight over the South Pole in 1929; Jacques-Yves Cousteau's underwater explorations in the 1950s and 1960s; Jane Goodall's studies of wild chimpanzees; Dian Fossey's work with mountain gorillas in Rwanda; the Leakeys' discovery of prehistoric man's fossils in Africa; and recent explorations of the Titanic.

Those who husband every copy of the National Geographic — and, like Reagan, wonder where to put them all — may want to find space on their bookshelves for C.D.B. Bryan's lavishly illustrated history. "The National Geographic Society: 100 years of adventure and discovery."

Bryan spent a year at the society's headquarters rummaging through its archives.

VIN DE CHATEAU

Taste the Good Life

...even if you weren't born with a Silver Spoon

China reportedly ready to join games, enter 'as many events as possible'

Soviet Union confirms Olympic participation

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union will attend the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, the official news agency TASS reported on Monday.

TASS said a meeting of the Soviet Olympic Committee had voted to accept the invitation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

TASS said the committee made the decision "guided by the Olympic ideals and the interests of strengthening the unity of the international Olympic movement," and because of the games' role in fostering peace and international understanding.

All Soviet Bloc nations, except Romania, boycotted the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, claiming they were given insufficient security guarantees for their athletes.

That boycott was widely seen as Soviet retaliation for the decision by the United States and 65 other countries to stay away from the 1980 Olympics in Moscow to protest the Kremlin's military drive into Afghanistan the previous year.

The last time Soviet and American athletes took the field against one another at a summer

Olympiad was at Montreal in 1976.

At those games, the Soviets won 125 medals, more than any other country, including 49 gold medals, of which 35 were for first place.

After 1980, superpower sports competition continued at other international events, including the Goodwill Games in Moscow in 1986.

A Kremlin boycott of the Seoul Games had once been considered possible because of disputes between North and South Korea, which has no diplomatic ties with Moscow and its allies.

North Korea demanded in 1985 that it be made a co-host of the games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) offered to let it stage five events, but North Korea has insisted on hosting not less than half of the games.

Although the Soviet Olympic committee, which met in plenary session in Moscow, indicated support for North Korea's stand, it did not make Soviet attendance

at the games conditional on the acceptance of its ally's demands.

The Soviet committee "supports the proposal by the NOC (National Olympic Committee) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for holding the Olympic Games in the North and South of Korea, which would,

149 countries filed for participation

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Four more countries, including Soviet-allied Mongolia, have notified the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that they will send teams to the Seoul Olympics, an IOC spokeswoman said Monday. The latest additions — the three others are Algeria, Bhutan, and Antigua — raises to 149 the number of national Olympic committees which have announced participation. Five Soviet bloc countries have already notified the Lausanne-based IOC that they will take part in the Seoul Games.

undoubtedly, correspond to the spirit of the Olympic charter," TASS said.

Czechoslovakia and China are among the 17 Olympic committees that have yet to reply formally to the IOC invitation. They are due to announce their decision Jan. 15, two days before the deadline set by the IOC.

The number of participating countries already exceeds the records set at Los Angeles in 1984, when 140 Olympic committees were entered despite a Soviet-led boycott.

Theoretically, countries which have accepted can still pull out without risking sanctions. An IOC meeting during the Calgary Winter Olympics next month is to discuss what measures could be taken in such a case.

China has decided to take part in the Seoul Olympic Games and its athletes are already preparing for the competition, Chinese sources said on Monday.

Peking is expected to also call for North Korea to be allowed to host several Olympic events when it officially confirms its participation this week, Western diplomats said.

"It would only be a gesture to save North Korean feelings," a diplomat commented. China has had close ties with North Korea since the Korean war and does not recognise the Seoul government.

Two Soviet allies, Hungary and East Germany, confirmed last month they would take part in the summer games, calming fears of a possible Communist boycott. North Korea threatened to lead unless it was allowed to co-host the games.

Hong Kong's usually well-informed Wen Wei Po newspaper on Sunday quoted sources as saying China would send a larger squad to Seoul than to the 1984 games, and would enter "as many events as possible."

China, which is due to host the 1990 Asian Games, has a "more than 90 per cent chance" of being selected to host the Olympics in the year 2000, a separate report in Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper said Sunday.

The newspaper said an IOC delegation had visited China's national games late last year and described the country's facilities as up to Olympic standards.

Mass fines for Australian Open entrants

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Sweltering temperatures and swirling winds provided a baptism of fire for the new \$50-million National Tennis Centre complex on the opening day of the Australian Open on Monday.

Temperatures in excess of 40 degrees Celsius created sauna-like conditions as the surfaces of the artificial courts, installed in favour of the old Kooyong site's grass courts, were measured at 62 degrees.

"It was incredibly hot and windy out there," said Wimbledon champion Pat Cash after beating Austrian Thomas Muster. "The centre court is more compact and seems to retain the heat but it did cool down a little as the match went on."

"I watched a couple of the earlier matches and saw they were having trouble with the wind," Cash added. "But I didn't realise how blustery it was until I got out there. It was very tricky." Weather conditions aside, the ultra-modern complex, located in the heart of Melbourne's business district, won positive reviews from many of the world's leading players.

"It was to be pretty close to the best (facility) in the world," said Chris Evert after her match on the 15,000-seat centre court. "It's beautiful from the players' point of view. The court is a cross between supreme and hardcourt and has a cushioning effect which is good on the body."

Evert, a winner of seven U.S. Open singles titles on the rubberised cement of flushing meadow, said the rebound ace court was similar in pace and bounce to its U.S. counterpart. "It plays a lot like flushing but has more cushion," she said.

Martina Navratilova, who played in the relative cool of the evening, was full of praise for the centre. "It's fabulous. I think it will help boost the standing of the Australian Open," said the reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion.

World number three Chris Evert confirmed on Monday that she would appeal against a \$20,000 fine imposed by the Women's International Tennis Association (WITA).

Evert, and world number two Martina Navratilova were fined last week for bypassing the New South Wales Tourist Commission to play an exhibition event at the Sanctuary Cove tourist complex in Queensland.

The pair preferred to play at Sanctuary Cove, on the rebound ace courts, the same surface as at this week's Australian Open, instead of on grass at the New South Wales event.

Madjer may be sidelined for a month

MADRID (R) — Algerian striker Rabah Madjer, on loan from European champions Porto, could be out of action for a month after tearing a leg muscle after scoring in Valencia's 2-1 Spanish soccer championship defeat at Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Madjer, released for six months by the Portuguese side, was playing only his second game for Valencia but his impact was considerable.

Commanding in attack, he struck in the eighth minute to put the visitors ahead. It was his second goal for the club.

Atletico captain Juan Arceche equalised in the 17th minute and Valencia crumbled after Madjer's 34th minute departure.

Marcelo Alonso scored in the 56th minute to put Atletico just three points behind local rivals and league leaders Real Madrid. Real, struggling without in-

NBA STANDINGS				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	21	10	.677	—
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	5
New York	11	21	.344	10.5
Washington	10	20	.333	10.5
New Jersey	6	25	.194	15
Central Division				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
Atlanta	24	8	.750	—
Detroit	19	9	.679	3
Chicago	19	12	.613	4.5
Milwaukee	17	13	.567	6
Indiana	15	15	.500	8
Cleveland	15	17	.469	9
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
Dallas	20	10	.667	—
Houston	18	13	.581	2.5
Denver	19	14	.576	2.5
San Antonio	14	16	.467	6
Utah	15	18	.455	6.5
Sacramento	9	23	.281	12
Pacific Division				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Lakers	25	6	.806	—
Portland	20	11	.645	5
Seattle	18	15	.545	8
Phoenix	11	19	.367	13.5
L.A. Clippers	8	22	.267	16.5
Golden State	5	23	.179	18.5

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Iraqi fans to stay home for Kuwaiti tie

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi soccer fans will stay at home when the national team meet Kuwait in Oman for the second leg of their Olympic qualifying tie, an Iraqi sports official has said. "The faithful relations that bind Iraq and Kuwait are hearty and exceed the boundaries of sports," Uday Hussein, head of the Iraqi Football Association and the National Olympic Committee, told Reuters. The International Football Federation (FIFA) fined Iraq \$14,900 last week because of incidents after the first leg in Kuwait which the home side won 2-1. Singaporean referee Nasrudin Chandra had to be protected by security guards from physical attack. Hussein, son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, said Iraq would not send fans to the match in Oman on Friday. "The Iraqi and the Kuwaiti teams are one team and it makes no difference which one qualifies for the Seoul Olympics," he said.

Coventry, Tottenham draw

LONDON (R) — Coventry City and Tottenham, the finalists in last year's English F.A. Cup, both blessed the good fortune which gave them relatively easy ties in Monday's draw for the fourth round of this season's competition. Cup holders Coventry will host the winners of Tuesday's third-round replay between Watford, who are bottom of the First Division, and Second Division Hull. "Whichever way we look at it, it's a super draw for us," Coventry manager John Sillit said. "We have beaten Watford in the league this season and they must consider us to be their bogey team. Hull are a bit of a unknown quantity but I can go and watch them in the replay against Watford."

Player releases sought from Rangers

GLASGOW (R) — Top-level talks with champions Glasgow Rangers are being arranged by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) in a bid to get greater cooperation in releasing players for international matches. Scotland have been forced to play their last two games without a single player from Rangers. Rangers should have been represented by Richard Gough, Ally McCoist and Ian Durrant for European championship fixtures in Bulgaria and Luxembourg late last year.

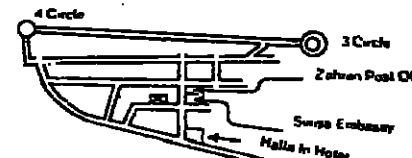
showed after the final whistle. Goalkeepers Lorenzo Amadoro of Murcia and Francisco Brujo of Real started a shouting match on the middle of the pitch which continued as the teams returned to the dressing rooms.

Real Sociedad, third in the league under British coach John Toshack, kept up their recent good form with a 1-0 win at home to Valladolid.

Veteran Jesus Zamora made up for missing a 43rd minute penalty by scoring in the 61st.

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NHL STANDINGS

Patrick Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia Flyers	20	17	6	46	148	156
Washington Capitals	20	18	5	45	145	135
New Jersey Devils	20	18	5	45	146	155
New York Islanders	20	16	4	44	158	141
Pittsburgh Penguins	16	19	8	40	163	171
New York Rangers	17	21	5	39	170	165

Adams Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston Bruins	25	14	5	55	163	138
Montreal Canadiens	22	11	10	54	158	132
Buffalo Sabres	18	17	7	43	138	164
Hartford Whalers	15	18	7	37	121	133
Quebec Nordiques	17	20	2	36	139	144

Norris Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	20	16	5	45	166	139
St. Louis Blues	16	21	5	37	138	152
Chicago Black Hawks	17	23	2	36	155	178
Toronto Maple Leafs	14	22	6	34	157	172
Minnesota North Stars	13	23	7	33	142	181

Smythe Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	27	12	4	58	215	155
Edmonton Oilers	25	13	5	55	196	142
Winnipeg Jets	17	18	5	39	147	156
Vancouver Canucks	14	23	6	34	139	156
Los Angeles Kings	13	26	5	31	161	204

Accident-hit champ ready for Calgary

SCHLIERSEE (INP) — Last spring the career of German skier Markus Wasmeier (24) appeared to be over: A serious fall during a World Cup race at Furano/Japan, as a result of which he broke two bones in his chest, meant that the blond Bavarian had to wear a plaster corset for three weeks. He was in fact, lucky he did not need a wheelchair. However, Wasmeier did not consider retiring for a single minute, quite on the contrary: The 1984 world champion in the giant slalom trained during the summer months harder than ever before — and in fact, fell several times during practice races in New Zealand and in the local Alps. However, the greatest rival of Swiss world champion Pirmin Zurbriggen, maintains that all this only strengthened his self-confidence and his ambition: "I never want to have to accuse myself at a later stage that I didn't try everything in order to be top fit for Calgary." Apart from the Winter Olympics in Calgary, where he is reckoned to be in with a chance for a medal, Wasmeier is also intent on doing well in the World Cup, the "sonny boy" from Upper Bavaria intends finishing up "at least."



The ex-world star from Bavaria Markus Wasmeier (Photo: INP)

Calgary games' success seems assured with King in charge

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Frank King does not regard himself a gambling man.

But wager a million dollars against the success of next month's Winter Olympics, and the organising committee chairman's eyes might just light up. For seven-figure bets are the only kind King is used to and the snave 55-year-old has an impressive record of success.

In 1979, he raced a rival in the Boston Marathon for a \$1 million business bet.

Then senior vice president of an oil and gas company, King finished 5,224th — sufficient to beat his opponent and enable his firm to collect.

Critics might argue the bet was an unnecessarily flamboyant gesture bordering on the irresponsible.

But it takes five minutes in the company of the self-made millionaire to realise everything King does is calculated. Little is left to chance.

"I'm not a high risk taker," King told Reuters in an interview in his modest office located at the heart of the organising operation. "I'm risk orientated but I like to

take reasoned risks rather than wild ones."

A succession of "reasoned risks" have carried King along a path of fame and fortune. The son of a high school principal, King has a proven track record.

Little wonder some see his association with the winter games, which open on February 13, as a cast-iron guarantee of success.

Until the start of last year, King's position on the organising committee was purely voluntary. But from January 1, 1987 he became the boss and began drawing a \$115,000 salary.

His devotion to the Olympics throughout the organising campaign has been total to the point of obsessive.

"It's as if he's on a mission from God," one organising committee member was quoted as saying recently.

King objects to such descriptions. "I'd say it was more single-minded dedication," he said.

"It's certainly been a labour of love but you can't stay with it for as long as I have without a strong feeling for the project."

King is the perfect front man for the organising committee. He

is charming, articulate, always impeccably presented and boasts other essential public relations skills honed by years in private sector industry.

More significantly, he appears blessed with the Midas touch.

"I've never had a serious failure," he said. "I've certainly had a lack of success but I think that's part of winning. You have to experience the opposite of winning to appreciate success and to know how to succeed."

"It's all part of risk taking which I've learned to do reasonably well over the years."

Born in nearby Redcliff, King graduated from the University of Alberta with a chemical engineering degree in 1959.

His father died when King was 12, forcing him to take a string of part-time jobs to pay his way through college.

The first few years after leaving university were tough for King. "I spent a lot of time on the road then, sleeping in the back seat of my car and eating peanut butter and banana sandwiches," he said.

Then in 1974 a university friend asked him to join his emerging oil and gas company, Turbo Resources. King was installed as

senior vice president with stock options and a seat on the board. It was the break he had been seeking.

Over the next six years King established himself as one of the region's leading oil men. But he did not allow his rapidly accumulating wealth to dull his shrewd business mind.

He bought Turbo's Research and Development Division and converted it into his personal company, Amerigo International.

When Turbo crashed in the oil slump of the early 1980s, King escaped unscathed. Another "reasoned risk" had paid rich dividends.

King left Turbo in 1982, just months after a night in Baden-Baden, West Germany, dramatically changed his life. That was when King was awarded the winter Olympics.

King describes the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decision as "one of the most monumental" in his life.

Asked what has given him most pleasure from organising the games, King points to a handful of framed photographs of Calgary's brand new sports facilities

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Moscow could begin Aghan pullout in May

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said on Monday Soviet troops could start pulling out of Afghanistan on May 1 if an agreement was signed by Pakistan and the Kabul administration by the start of March.

Pravda commentator Vsevolod Ovchinnikov said agreements under discussion at several meetings in Geneva in the past two years provided for a halt to U.S. support for Afghan insurgents.

"If it becomes possible to sign the Geneva understandings by March 1 — and the Afghan side is by all appearances intending to provide an extra push for the next Soviet-American summit — then the starting date for the withdrawal could be May 1," he wrote.

Ovchinnikov made it clear the United States and Pakistan would have to take major steps to stop activities by Afghan rebels if the pullout were to start by then.

The Pravda journalist, whose remarks were clearly based on an official briefing, said a completed agreement on Afghanistan could provide an extra push for the next Soviet-American summit — which diplomats expect for late May in Moscow.

The article marked the first time Moscow had mentioned an exact date for the start of a pull-out, which Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said last week could be completed in less than 12 months.

But analysts said the conditions Ovchinnikov spelled out still made it unlikely that Washington and Islamabad could comply without

further concrete assurances from Moscow on its role during the two-month interim period after an agreement.

Ovchinnikov said this time-gap between an agreement and the withdrawal "is not accidental — it is determined by the necessity of giving Islamabad time to liquidate the dushman bases on Pakistani territory."

Moscow and Kabul use the term dushman, which means reactionary renegades or bandits, to describe the Afghan insurgents, who have been fighting successive pro-Soviet governments in Kabul since 1978.

"In other words," Ovchinnikov said, "the problem lies not in the date for the start of the withdrawal of Soviet forces but in the date when American aid to the dushmans is halted."

The United States has until now insisted that it would support the insurgents until Moscow set a firm date for an irreversible pull-out to begin and provided a timetable for its completion.

U.S. officials say they would also expect assurances from Moscow that it would not attempt to return to shore up the present Kabul authorities if they appeared under threat from the insurgents after the withdrawal.

Talks between Kabul and Islamabad through United Nations mediation are due to resume in Geneva in late February and there have been indications of optimism from Washington as well as Moscow that there could be a breakthrough.

Afghan authorities said on Sunday a U.N. human rights envoy had visited the eastern garrison town of Khost, two weeks after it was relieved after a long rebel siege.

U.N. emissary Felix Ermacora met local officials and made enquiries about Afghan exiles during the visit on Saturday, the official Kabul Radio said.

The visit to Khost was the first by a U.N. official since the Kabul authorities reported their forces had broken the siege on Dec. 27 by opening the 125-kilometre road from the Paktia province capital, Gardez.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Mr. Ermacora also visited the eastern province of Nangarhar on Sunday, met officials there and saw the Nangarhar University near the provincial capital Jalalabad.

Mr. Ermacora arrived in Kabul last Monday for his second visit to prepare a report for the annual U.N. Human Rights Commission session opening in Geneva on Feb. 1.

A U.N. spokeswoman in Geneva said on Friday that Mr. Ermacora would also visit Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan in early February.

Study urges better conventional arms for U.S., allies

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan will receive a top-level defence study on Tuesday which suggests that too much reliance may have been placed on nuclear deterrence and urges Washington and its allies to develop highly accurate conventional weapons.

The report, released by the U.S. Defence Department on Sunday night, says accurate conventional arms are essential to ensure quick management of a regional conflict and keep it from flaring into a superpower nuclear war.

It notes, however, that shrinking Western defence budgets will make it difficult for the United States and its allies to build expensive conventional arms.

Defence Undersecretary Fred Ikle, one of 13 members of a study group which compiled the report, told Reuters in an interview that the group would discuss it with Mr. Reagan on Tuesday. He said it had already gone to NATO and Asian allies.

The report says that "we must diversify and strengthen our ability to bring discriminating, non-nuclear force to bear where needed in time to defeat aggression."

It says: "To deter the more plausible Soviet attacks, we must be able not only to respond discriminately, but must also have some prospects of keeping any such war within bounds of ensuring that it does not rapidly deteriorate into an apocalypse."

The study group also included former Defence Secretary Henry Kissinger, former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, former University of Chicago Professor Albert Wohlstetter and several retired senior military officers.

The 68-page report has already gone to Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and Mr. Reagan's National Security Adviser Colin Powell, according to Pentagon officials.

Mr. Ikle said: "We must work together for the capability to be militarily effective without (nuclear) destruction of that which we wish to protect."

"The United States and its friends must integrate strategy with better weapons," he said. "We must look 20 years ahead to form strategy and develop better conventional weapons because that's how long it takes to develop them."

Ryzhkov in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov arrived in Sweden on Monday for a four-day visit during which he will try to achieve a breakthrough in 19-year-old talks over Baltic Sea territorial rights.

Mr. Ryzhkov, accompanied by his wife Lyudmila, was met at Arlanda Airport north of Stockholm by Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson.

The two then went straight into the first of two negotiating sessions scheduled for Monday.

The talks were likely to be dominated by the Baltic issue, which has been the subject of intensive negotiations between the two countries over the past month.

Mr. Carlsson said on Sunday that he regarded the issue as a litmus test of Moscow's attitude to neutral Sweden and warned that failure to solve the lingering dispute would harm bilateral relations.

Sweden and the Soviet Union have held intermittent talks since 1969 on how to share an area of about 8,500 square miles of sea between the Swedish Baltic island of Gotland and the coast of the Soviet Republic of Latvia.

Swedish sources said they had offered Moscow control of 25 per cent of the zone but Swedish newspapers reported on Monday that the Soviet Union wanted 30 per cent.

Newspapers — and conversation with ordinary Swedes — suggested, however, that there was considerable popular sentiment against compromise with Moscow, especially against a background of reported submarine intrusions in Swedish waters.

"No Poltava in the Baltic," said a weekend headline in the tabloid Expressen, referring to an 18th century battle between Sweden and Russia which sealed the fall of the former and the rise of the latter as great northern powers.

Apparently with public opinion in mind, Mr. Carlsson on Sunday met the leaders of the three opposition parties to try to reach a traditional Swedish consensus on the Baltic issue.

Moderate (conservative) party leader Carl Bildt said afterwards that the meeting had laid down limits to the extent that Sweden would compromise.

S. Korean police disperse Kwangju student protesters

SEOUL (R) — President-Elect Roh Tae-woo tried to make peace with the angry people of Kwangju on Monday while riot police and students clashed once again in the south-western city.

A thousand police fired teargas and stormed the campus of Chosun University where 5,000 boycotted their classes and held a rally demanding greater academic freedom and administrative reforms, the domestic news agency Yonhap said.

Last week hundreds of protesters threw rocks and petrol bombs and set a campus building ablaze when riot police raided the buildings and made 120 arrests.

Police said on Sunday they had

charged more than 90 students.

A spokesman for Mr. Roh's ruling party said 52 representatives were appointed on Monday to a Committee for Democratic Reconciliation. Its task would be to find ways of healing the scars left by the military's repression of a 1980 civil uprising in Kwangju in which the government has said 193 people were killed.

Kwangju dissidents say many more died.

Reconciliation would be discussed in talks between Mr. Roh and opposition leader Kim Young-Sam, and between President Chun Doo Hwan and Mr. Kim's rival within the opposition, Kim Dae-Jung, later this week.

Noriega returns to Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega returned to Panama City on Sunday, ending rumours he had left the country and abandoned power.

Armed forces spokesman Edgardo Lopez told Reuters that Gen. Noriega returned without fanfare on Sunday morning from the Dominican Republic where he had been visiting his daughter.

Several thousand people took to the streets on Saturday after Gen. Noriega left for the Dominican capital Santo Domingo amid rumours that the general, Panama's de facto leader, had abandoned power due to domestic and

foreign pressure. Military officials, however, moved quickly on Saturday to quell the rumours, assuring Panamanians over national television and radio that Gen. Noriega would return by Monday.

A personal assistant to President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is on a visit to the United States, also said Gen. Noriega had left the country on a scheduled private visit.

The rumours were fuelled by reports published in local newspapers on Saturday that a U.S. Defence Department official had recently visited the general and urged him to step down.

Thatcher's most trusted adviser resigns

LONDON (R) — Britain's deputy prime minister, Viscount William Whitelaw, resigned on Sunday because of ill health but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refused to replace her most trusted adviser, saying his position was unique.

In a letter to "My Dear Margaret," Whitelaw, 69, who was also leader of parliament's House of Lords, told Mrs. Thatcher he had to step down after suffering a mild stroke in December.

"My doctors have advised me that although I have made a good recovery it would be unwise at my age to undergo in future the stress inseparable from senior ministerial office. With the greatest regret therefore, I feel I am bound to ask you to accept my resignation," he said in the letter.

Whitelaw will be replaced in the House of Lords by Junior Environment Minister Lord Belstead but the post of deputy prime minister has been scrapped.

"My dear Willie," Mrs. Thatcher replied, "I fully realise that medical advice leaves you no choice and, because your well-being comes first, sadly I have no choice but to accept your resignation."

She spoke of her great sense of

loss and added: "The position of deputy prime minister was unique to you for your unique qualities and comes to an end with your service."

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will now be second in official cabinet seniority and will be in charge when Mrs. Thatcher is abroad.

Whitelaw entered parliament in 1955 and served under the Conservative administrations of Harold MacMillan, Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Edward Heath before becoming home secretary in Mrs. Thatcher's first cabinet.

UNESCO chief vows to revamp agency

NEW YORK (R) — Federico Mayor, UNESCO's new director general, says he plans to revamp the agency and hopefully bring the United States, Britain and Singapore back into its fold.

Mr. Mayor, elected to the post last November, told Newsweek magazine in an interview published on Sunday that his plans include greater decentralisation through coordination with other U.N. agencies and economic austerity measures to trim what critics have described as UNESCO's grossly expensive operating costs.

Mr. Mayor said he "loves bureaucrats," and indicated that he would rely on them heavily to reorganise the agency. "I will make many reforms," he said.

Mr. Mayor, a 53-year-old Spanish biochemistry professor, took over UNESCO from Amadou Mokhtar M'bow of Senegal, whose long leadership of the agency was attacked by the U.S., Britain and Singapore for poor management and ideologically slanted programmes.

"I hope that the countries that left and the countries not yet with us will be sensitive to the appeal that the member countries made at the last general conference, 'please come back'," Mr. Mayor said.

One of UNESCO's more controversial programmes calls for a so-called "new information order" which could allow governments to license journalists.

Indicating opposition to the programme Mr. Mayor told Newsweek, "I will never do anything to cut peace education or the free flow of information. I will never accept the licensing by governments of creative activity."

Mr. Mayor said his ultimate goal was to return to "the pillars of UNESCO" by focusing on its aims of fostering peace through education, science, culture and communication.

Gen. Ershad's Jatiya Party said on Monday nearly 1,500 party members had sought nomination for the polls.

"No elections held while Ershad remains in office will be fair," Sheikh Hasina said.

Obaidur Rahman, secretary-general of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Begum Khaleda Zia, said people were determined not to allow what he called farcical elections.

"So-called elections being planned by Gen. Ershad would plunge the country into a greater crisis, so it's a national responsibility to stop the fun," he told a party meeting in northern Sherpur district on Sunday.

Managua opposition holds big rally

MANAGUA (R) — Some 10,000 Nicaraguans took to the streets on Sunday to demand an end to compulsory military service, press freedom and a loosening of the left-wing government's control over unions, education and the economy.

Youths wearing handkerchiefs to hide their faces spray-painted anti-government slogans on walls as the slogan-chanting demonstrators wound their way through the capital. Police kept watch from distance.

The march, organised by a coalition of opposition parties, was to mark the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Pedro Joa-

quin Chamorro, editor of the opposition La Prensa newspaper.

Chamorro was killed in January 1978 after repeated attacks by La Prensa against former dictator Anastasio Somoza. The murder helped garner support for the Sandinista National Liberation Front, which ousted Somoza 18 months later.

La Prensa, now under the direction of Chamorro's widow, subsequently began opposing the Sandinistas, saying they had betrayed promises for democracy.

The paper was shut down in July 1986 accused of backing "U.S. aggression" and reopened

a few months ago as a result of the peace pact signed by five Central American presidents last August.

The ruling party is under increasing pressure to take further steps toward democratisation as agreed in the pact.

In a procession stretching for several blocks the marchers converged at the cemetery where Chamorro is buried. A representative from the Pedro Joaquin Taxi Drivers Union laid a wreath on his grave.

Chamorro is seen as a symbol by both the opposition and the government.

Hart would not be 'first adulterer in White House'

IOWA FALLS, Iowa (AP) — Presidential candidate Gary Hart says if he's elected, he "won't be the first adulterer in the White House."

But he said American voters appear to be prepared to understand the personal problems that forced him to withdraw his bid for the Democratic Party's nomination last May.

The former senator from Colorado rejoined the race last month.

"The people of this country in the last three weeks have been tremendously warm and accepting," Mr. Hart said in an emotional interview published Sunday in the Des Moines Register. "It's great to be back."

Mr. Hart and his wife, Lee, met Saturday with the editorial board of the daily newspaper during a campaign swing in this rural, midwestern state.

Mr. Hart gave the interview one month before the first crucial test of the election year — the Iowa Political Caucus that will select state delegates to the par-

ty's nominating convention this summer.

Success in Iowa is an essential ingredient in establishing a campaign for the rapid-fire series of state primaries and caucuses scheduled in the next five months.

In his interview, Mr. Hart asked that his personal life be kept in "perspective." At one point during the session, he wiped away tears, the newspaper said.

"If I am elected I won't be the first adulterer in the White House," Mr. Hart said. "I may be the first one to have publicly confessed, but I won't be the first."

After leaving the race amid reports of his relationship with model Donna Rice, Hart admitted in a nationally televised interview that he had not been "totally faithful" to his wife, Lee. But he refused to discuss Rice or any other individual.

More recently, he called his liaison with Rice a "damn fool mistake."

Diplomats: China not ready for summit with Soviets

PEKING (R) — China is gradually warming to its former foe, the Soviet Union, but is still holding back from top-level contacts, Western diplomats said on Monday.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called for a Sino-Soviet summit, the first in 29 years, in an interview with a Chinese weekly published on Monday.

No official Chinese comment was immediately available, but one Western diplomat in Peking said flatly: "I don't think the Chinese are ready for such a meeting."

Despite a steady improvement in relations between the two Communist giants in recent months, China would not budge on what it calls "the three obstacles," another diplomat said.

The main one is China's insistence that Moscow urge Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea.

Asked about a possible summit, a Vietnamese source here commented only: "We would welcome such a meeting, but it's hard to say when it could happen."

China also demands that Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, and objects to large Soviet troop concentrations along the Chinese border.

Mr. Gorbachev made the summit request on Dec. 28 during an interview by the weekly Liaowang (outlook).

"It would be a logical development, in our view, to hold a Soviet-Chinese summit," the Soviet leader said.

"Judging by all accounts, both sides realise the objective necessity of this," Mr. Gorbachev said. "To meet each other, we can find mutually acceptable solutions — we are sure of that."

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) and official newspapers carried reports on the interview but made no mention of the summit proposal.

In the past three years, trade, cultural and sports ties between China and the Soviet Union have improved.

COLUMNS 768

Iraqis find 4,000-year-old artifacts

BAGHDAD (AP) — Teams excavating at the site of the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud in northern Iraq have come across 4,000-year-old finds, the Al Thawra daily reported Monday. The artifacts included some ivory sculptures, ornamented daggers dating back to the ancient Assyrian empire. The daily did not say when the discovery was made. The newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, also said mounds and other finds were unearthed, including a wall and the remains of what could be a tower. Nimrud is 17 miles (37 kilometres) south of Mosul, the third-largest city in Iraq, the land known in ancient times as Mesopotamia. Nimrud was the Assyrians' capital. Several foreign and Iraqi teams have been working in northern Iraq, the hub for archaeological activity in the country.

Bull disrupts class

CAIRO (AP) — An angry bull charged into a provincial university, causing injuries and disrupting classes for one hour before it was sedated and caught, the state-run daily Al Akhbar said in its early Monday edition. The paper said the bull escaped from its owner at a cattle market in Al Faiyum province, a farm area 65 miles (103 kilometres) south west of Cairo. It then ran into the neighbouring open fields of the university's school of agriculture, and charged into the dean's room and the administration department, injuring an unspecified number of people and spreading panic, the paper said. The police were able to stop it with a sedative shot in the neck, Al Akhbar said. Al Faiyum is a largely agricultural area south of the Giza Pyramids. Its citrus orchards and vegetable fields grow around a lake, contrasting sharply with the surrounding desert.

Gadgets come with touch of style

CHICAGO (AP) — A machine that mixes, kneads and bakes bread and a ruler that measures distance by ultrasound are among thousands of housewares catching buyers' interest this week at an international show. Sponsors of the 87th International Housewares Exposition said this year's products target wealthy consumers who value quality of life and style. "People with disposable income want good design and style," said William Rupley, chairman of the board of the National Housewares Manufacturers Association, which is putting on the four-day show that runs through Wednesday. One of the items on display is a \$350 machine that mixes, kneads, and bakes a loaf of homemade bread in three hours.

Priest on trial for firing at mourner

ORENSE, Spain (R) — A Spanish priest went on trial on Monday charged with shooting a mourner in the foot at a funeral gathering. Eladio Blanco, a village priest in north western Spain, was also accused of illegally possessing about 10 guns and pistols which police found during a search of his house. Blanco is alleged to have lost his temper after presiding over a funeral service at his church in March last year and shot the mourner with a revolver during an argument about whether he should accompany the coffin to the cemetery. Defence lawyers say Blanco was mentally ill at the time.

Man believed dead is still alive

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — While friends and relatives attended his funeral, Charles Willie Pryor rested in a hospital bed, unaware that an unidentified man was being buried in his place. Authorities say they don't know who is buried in Pryor's grave, and they cannot explain how the mistaken identity occurred. A few hours after the funeral Friday, two relatives identified a patient at a veterans administration hospital as Pryor. Pryor, 61, had checked into the hospital for an undisclosed ailment Wednesday, the day a newspaper published his obituary. The relatives were summoned after a hospital employee read the obituary and noticed similarities to the patient. State medical examiner Faruk B. Presswalla said Pryor's half-brother viewed the body of the dead man and identified it as Pryor. Also, family members viewed the body at the funeral. He said the fact that family members saw the body makes the mix-up especially mystifying. Pryor was unaware of the mix-up Saturday. "I don't know anything about that," he said in a telephone interview with Virginian-Pilot and the Ledger-Star. "I don't have a brother."

Actress has no regrets over Hudson kiss

LONDON (AP) — Linda Evans, star of the Dynasty television serial, has no regrets over her on-screen kiss with AIDS victim Rock Hudson. The much-discussed kiss, before the actor died from the disease in 1985, has not given her any sleepless nights either. "People expect me to have regretted that kiss with Rock but I don't," the actress said in an interview published Monday in the British weekly, Woman's Own. "Nor was it a statement about AIDS and how it was quite safe to kiss because I didn't know he had it. But I didn't have any sleepless nights about it because you can't get AIDS that way," the actress said. Miss Evans, who plays Krystle in the TV soap opera, said: "There is a lot of unnecessary fear about AIDS." In the interview, Miss Evans, 45, said she would like to have a child. "I think it would be lovely to be a mother, even though I may be getting a little bit old for it," she said. She recently broke up with her long-standing boyfriend Richard Cohen, but said she has learned to cope with emotional crises after two failed marriages. "That's one of the things that I admire about Joan Collins," she said of her co-star in Dynasty. "However tough things may get at the time, she just gets on with her life, she doesn't let it get her down. Both of us are survivors," said Miss Evans.

Dr. Zhivago play 'a big success'

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — A stage version of Boris Pasternak's novel Dr. Zhivago drew twelve minutes of curtain calls at the packed Szigligeti Theatre in the eastern town of Szolnok. Hungarian radio reported Saturday. Producer Janos Szikora described the performance as "a smashing success." Szikora, who dramatised the work, said it was obvious that the success was partly due to the "legend surrounding the work that has grown into a myth." A Hungarian translation of Pasternak's novel is due to be published in May. The weekly Film, Színház, Muzsika (film, theatre, music) on Saturday devoted two full pages to the play's dress rehearsal and to the drama-packed life of the Nobel-prize winning Soviet poet.

Thousands of birds die in oil slick

IJMUIDEN, Netherlands (AP) — Hundreds of volunteers Saturday battled to save the lives of thousands of sea birds as an oil slick 30 kilometres long washed ashore along the southern Dutch coast. The slick, whose origin has not yet been established, reached the Dutch North Sea coast late Friday. The first affected birds were found early Saturday morning, according to a Dutch Coast Guard spokesman. The authorities launched a search by plane and ship Saturday to find the vessel responsible for the oil slick, according to the spokesman, who declined to be identified by name. The Dutch Agriculture and Environment ministries and numerous volunteer organisations sent hundreds of people to beaches Saturday to collect the oily birds, many of which had already died, according to the spokesman. The slick was washed ashore between Wassenaar, a village 10 kilometres north of The Hague, and Haamstede, in the province of Zeeland, covering an uninterrupted strip 6 kilometres long and 5 metres wide, the spokesman said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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CREATING TRICKS OUT OF STRAW

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 7 6	♠ 5 4	♠ K J 2	♠ 10 9
♥ Q 5 3	♥ A 9 7 3	♥ 10 8 4	♥ K J 10 8 5 3
♦ Q 9 8			
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ K J 2	♠ 10 8 4	♠ Q 10 8 3	♠ A K 4
♥ J 9 7 6 2	♥ 10 8 4	♥ K Q 2	♥ 7 2
♦ A 4			

The bidding:
South 1♠ West 2♣ North 3♠ East 4♠
Opening lead: Ace of ♠

The great magicians are successful because they can make you believe in the illusions they create. That holds true for the great defenders at bridge as well.

With only three-card spade support, North had to make a waiting bid at his first turn. However, it did not take long for North-South to reach their optimum contract.

Against four spades, West led the ace of clubs and continued with

the four to his partner's jack. Declarer ruffed the club king with the eight and West overruffed — with the king!

To appreciate the beauty of this defense, let's pause for a moment to consider what would have happened had West made the seemingly normal play of overruffing with the jack. Declarer would win any return and would have only one play for his contract: a trump finesse. That would have succeeded and the contract would have coasted home.

Now we return to what actually happened. West exited with a heart, declarer won in hand and cashed the ace of trumps, both defenders following with a low trump. It seemed to declarer that East had to have the jack of trumps, so when he continued with a low trump from dummy and East followed with the five, South confidently finessed the 10. West produced the jack for the setting trick.

This form of deceptive play is quite common and, used judiciously, it can earn you many an extra trick. However, bear in mind that usually it is correct to win tricks as cheaply as possible, and a successful "swindle" works only when partner can't be fooled by the play into doing something suicidal.

السلامة والسلامة